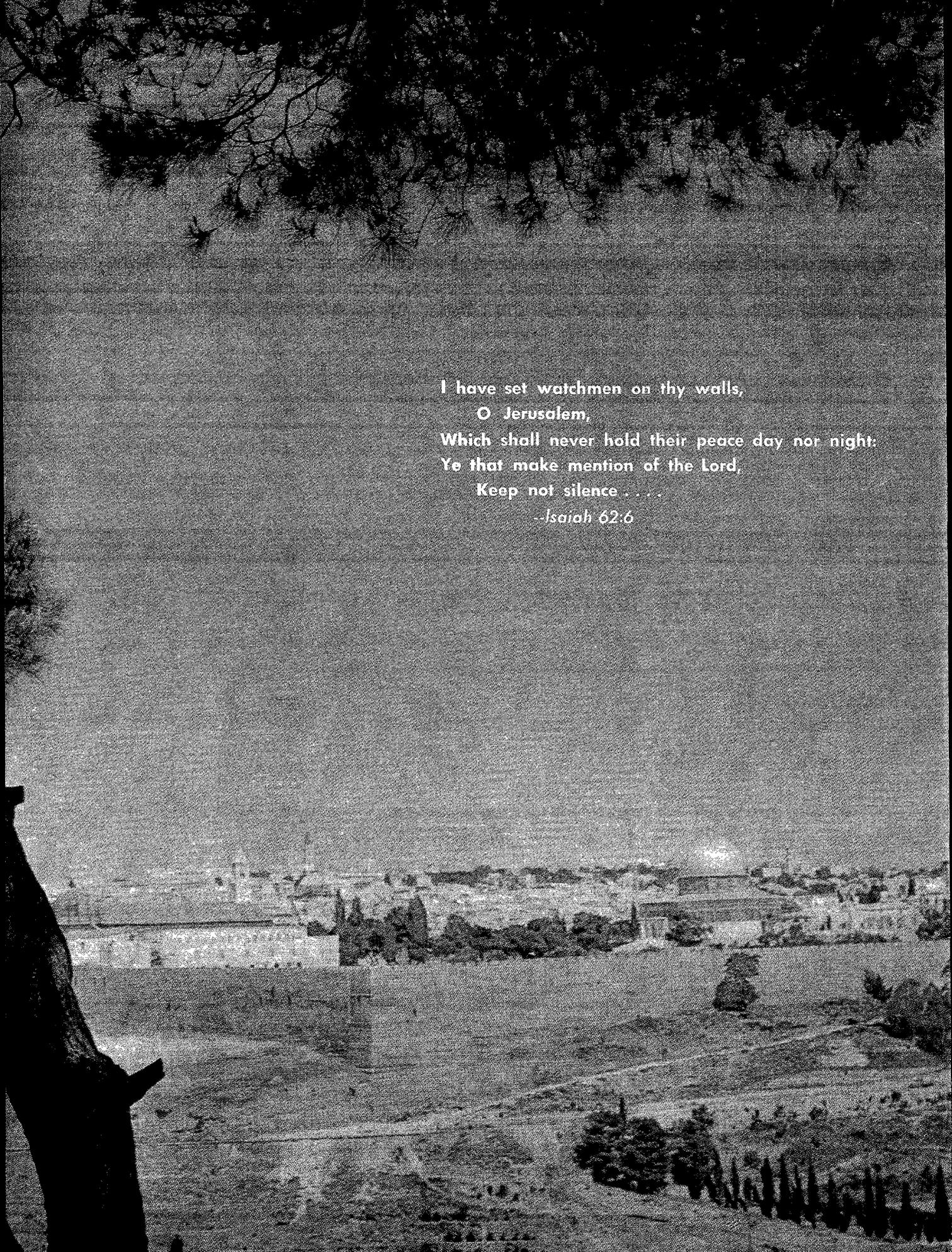


Middle East Messenger

1966--No. 1





I have set watchmen on thy walls,
O Jerusalem,
Which shall never hold their peace day nor night:
Ye that make mention of the Lord,
Keep not silence

--Isaiah 62:6

MESSAGE from the

Middle East

GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
MIDDLE EAST DIVISION
Sabbath, Beirut, Lebanon
Post Office Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon
Phone 760258

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MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

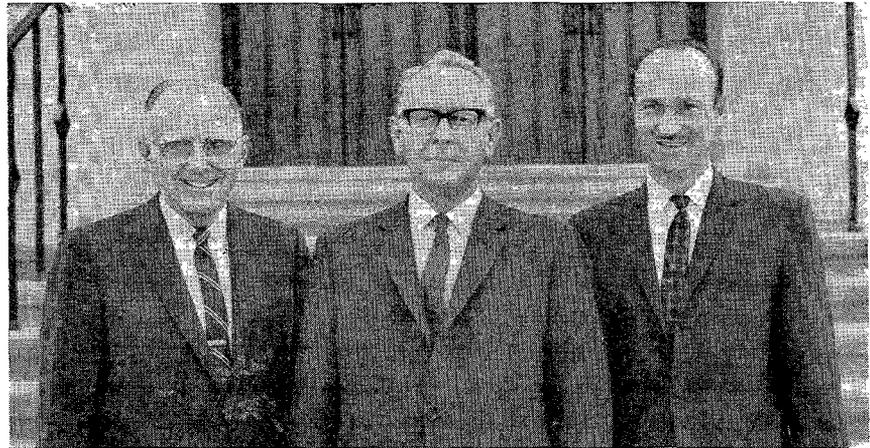
June 1966

Vol. XV, No. 1-4

A Special Issue for the 50th Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: ROBERT E. ANDERSON, *Chairman*; RICHARD LEE FENN, *Editor*; ANEES A. HADDAD, ROGER A. WILCOX, RICHARD W. WILMOT

Originally published bi-monthly, MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER is the official organ of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Middle East Division, Post Office Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.



FROM THE MIDDLE EAST : FENN, WILCOX, DARNELL
With a warm ahlan wa sahan. *

* Sixteen national and overseas workers and members are representing the Middle East Division at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Heading the delegation to Detroit is President Roger A. Wilcox, who first came to the Middle East in November 1958 after lengthy service in Brazil. He and Wife Violet both speak fluent Portuguese.

Early this year Secretary Robert C. Darnell—his division service began in October 1951—returned to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for further study in Islamics. He directs the church's Islamic research program.

Treasurer Vincent A. Fenn, closing his 6-year term of service, is especially satisfied that the new Benghazi Adventist Hospital is becoming a reality.

Other delegates include Evangelist Chafic Srour, Ministerial Secretary Roger Coon, Youth Leader Anees Haddad, Middle East Press Manager Robert E. Anderson, Turkey Section President Curtis Miller, Benghazi Hospital Medical Director Clifford Ludington, Cairo Mercy Home Director Erna Kruger, Section Departmental Secretaries Mousa Azar (Jordan), Manuk Benzatyan (Turkey), Ziki Hannawi (Syria), Manoug Nazirian (Lebanon), and Laymen Ghanim Fargo (Iraq) and John Hasso (Iran).

* The magnificent Middle East booth at GC Session was designed by the division's consulting architect, John Simpson of Jerusalem. His work on this particular project was a labor of love alone: Architect-Artist Simpson cancelled his fee.

* President Wilcox himself recommended the campus of Middle East College as the obvious spot to find a good cover picture. Three rolls of Ektachrome and several hours of shooting later, the chairman and the editor found two! On the front, Dr. Kenneth Vine shows Daniel Minassian (Iran) and Minerva Mousa (Lebanon) the master plan for campus development. Back cover: Samir Srour (Lebanon) and Nadia Haddad (Jordan), standing, join May Abdul-Karim, Katia Berbawi (both Lebanon), and Nadeem Beebe (Jordan), seated, for a bit of springtime fun in the sun.

The inside covers come from the camera of Pastor Harry E. Robinson, former president of the Jordan Section.

Editorial Committee Members Anees Haddad and Richard Wilmot (division cashier and assistant auditor) join President Wilcox, Editor Dick Fenn, and yours truly in extending warm greetings to one and all at the 50th GC Session and to church officials, pastors, and Sabbath School superintendents everywhere!

Robert E. Anderson

Chairman, Messenger Editorial Committee

*Welcome!

1966 - No. 1

BY ROGER WILCOX

President, Middle East Division

The message of the Holy Spirit is always active in the Church in the Middle East—forward, sometimes under most difficult conditions, but always forward in the promise of the risen Lord: "... ye shall receive power, after ... the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

This divine commission must be fulfilled; the challenge to the church in

self aided in finding a superb site for the new church.

All the dreams, prayers, and work of life are fulfilled in the last December 18th of the General Conference President Reuben R. Figuhr and GC Secretary Walter R. Beach joined members, workers, and hundreds of friends to dedicate the Basrah Seventh-day Adventist Church. Said the pastor that happy day: "I have waited for years for a place to worship; now I can come."

A new church and center is being planned for Beirut's sizeable Armenian community also opened last year. The church sanctuary—completed and dedicated—seats 1,000; the total project includes a 350-student junior academy. Pastor-Director Manoug Nazirian continues a strong evangelistic program.

The third quarter 1963 13th Sabbath overflow offering provided a healthy amount for a new center in Damascus, the oldest continuously inhabited city of the world. Now completed and ready for dedication, The Damascus Center is nothing less than a modern miracle of God's power in a troubled land. Located in the city's finest residential area, not distant from the traditional place of Paul's escape over the old wall so long ago, the large building offers facilities for worship, church activities, section headquarters, and worker residences.

The Jerusalem Center

And what of Jerusalem, the Holy City? High in the hills of Judea where "the work" began "the work" continues. Early this year the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jordan moved its offices from Amman to Jerusalem. Section officers—as well as hundreds of SDA tourists who have visited The Jerusalem Center, who have prayed and given for it—are eagerly awaiting the day when work gets going on the institute of physical therapy and rehabilitation. Next project: a magnificent hall of culture.

A bit more than a mile up the hill from division headquarters is Middle East College. Ten nationalities ranging all the way from Iran to the U.S.A. are united in a vigorous "earning-to-learn and learning-to-earn" program on the garden-like campus. The molding processes are not always easy for teachers or students, but the balanced training of hand, heart, and mind produces most gratifying results. Dr. Kenneth Vine, a former MEC religion professor, returned to the campus last year, short-

ly succeeded President G. Arthur Keough (now at Columbia Union College) who founded Middle East College in 1946.

Loma Linda Affiliation

MEC has been officially "adopted" by Loma Linda University, the church's largest single institution. Prior to the beginning of the collegiate affiliation, Dr. Godfrey T. Anderson, LLU president, visited Beirut to study development. He is required by the university to finish with Loma Linda.

In effect since July 1, 1962, the Loma Linda University-Middle East College affiliation has already proven its value in terms of higher scholastic standards for students, better-trained teachers, and an all-round increase in academic prestige. MEC has won full accreditation from the Lebanese Ministry of Education, giving the school official standing in the Middle East as a degree-granting institution of higher learning.

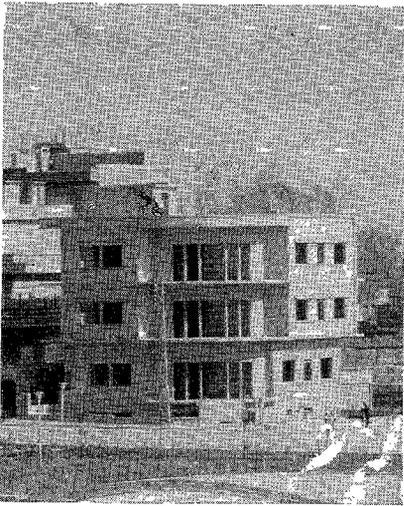
Meanwhile, Architect John Simpson of Jerusalem has prepared an extensive master building plan for MEC. A long-range expansion program is already under way.

There is construction activity out in Libya, too. The walls of the new Benghazi Adventist Hospital are going up.

Although the building phase of the division's major medical project got started only last December, the planning really began a decade back when Dr. Roy Cornell "pioneered" Adventist-brand medicine in Libya in a little hotel building. That same building, having passed through many transitions, having endured many crises, still offers Benghazi and the surrounding oil fields the best hospital service available.

Oil Companies Support Hospital

Over the years enterprising personnel have expanded hospital services in spite of the cramped conditions in the bomb-pocked building. Not only have the Libyan people depended on Mus-



THE DAMASCUS CENTER
God's power in a troubled land.

the old Bible lands must be met: 123,500,000 people speaking five major languages spread out across a million square miles in Europe, Africa, and Asia—95% of them non-Christian to begin with.

To identify and to stabilize the church and to spark new growth, the Middle East Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is now rapidly expanding its church development program. Several new centers have already been established in strategic positions throughout this field. Appropriate places for worship are important to the thinking and the way of life of the peoples of these Eastern lands. It is difficult for them to understand how a true worshiper could fail to provide a decent place for prayer. They themselves worship the one true God. They honor those who do the same.

New Basrah Church

Seventh-day Adventists in Iraq have labored for forty years to establish a church in Basrah. The Baghdad congregation contributed \$50,000 to the project. Church friends in Basrah it-



THE JERUSALEM CENTER
The work continues.

tashfa al-Adventist but also the giant oil companies whose tapping of the Sahara's vast underground pool of black gold is strengthening Libya's economy.

To help make the church's medical dream come true (and answer some mighty fervent praying), the oil people—Esso Standard Libya, Oasis Oil Co. of Libya, Libyan-American, and Nelson Bunker Hunt Oil Exploration and Production—granted \$750,000 toward the new hospital. The royal family and the government had already cleared the way for the church to buy and register ten acres of choice land. Doctors, nurses, staff, and, of course, a lot more patients will move in sometime late next year.

The Mercy Home in Cairo, operated under the loving supervision of Erna Kruger, offers a real Christian home to many boys and girls who are without a father and mother. For the past 13 years this little home has made its contribution of good will. The government has expressed its gratitude for the Adventist "TLC" given to many needy children. Many of the Mercy Home kiddies have gone on to continue their studies in academy and college to prepare for a place in God's work.

But the home itself was badly in need of financial aid. The building was



JERUSALEM REFUGEE CHILDREN
Challenge to the church.



THE NEW BASRAH CHURCH
After 40 years, dreams come true.

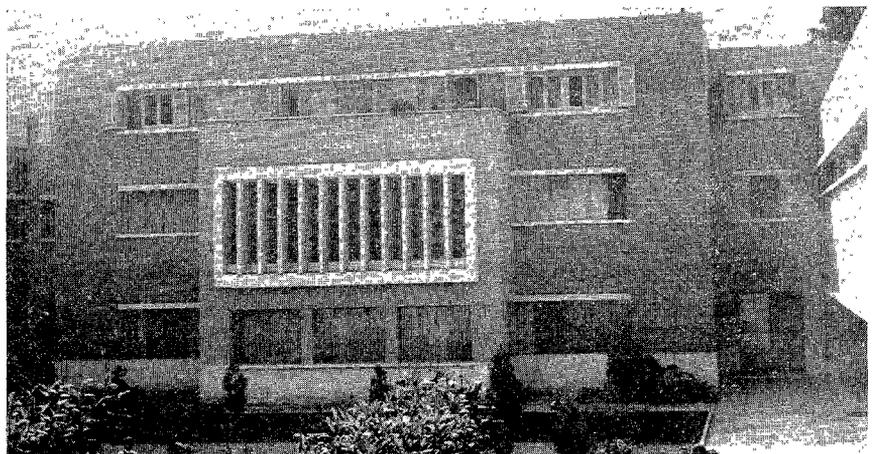
no longer adequate for the care of a growing family of children. Equipment, meager to begin with, was well-worn. Then a 13th Sabbath overflow offering provided funds to rebuild. The new structure is already complete and Mother Kruger (who is attending the 50th Session of the General Conference) and her children are both happy and grateful.

Immediate Action Needed

The need to expand all lines of church activity presses heavily on the hearts of all the workers in the Middle East. Time and conditions for the establishing of new medical facilities; government acceptance and accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist educational programs usher in new chal-

lenges for immediate action: a new hospital in Iraq; a new elementary school in Iran; a new evangelistic center in Kuwait; a new church, gymnasium, and faculty housing for Middle East College.

What has been accomplished under the guidance of Almighty God is but a beginning. The order is clear and certain: work "while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." From the shifting sands of Libya to the teeming streets of Tehran, from the Black Sea-washed shores of Turkey to the confluence of the two Niles in Sudan, faithful workers and members are dedicated to the supreme cause of presenting God's truth to every city, village, and Bedouin encampment in the lands of the Middle East.



THE NEW CAIRO MERCY HOME
For homeless kids, Mother Kruger's TLC.



"THE 5-DAY PLAN Adds Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years!"

It's the truth, of course! And everytime 5-Day Plan Teammates Anees Haddad and Herschel Lamp repeat this truth, the audience thunders its complete agreement.

Seven times in seven major cities of the Middle East, Pastor Haddad and Dr. Lamp have conducted The 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking. Here's a picture report with comments by Pastor Haddad:

AMMAN. Middle East's first 5-Day Plan held in the new auditorium of Adventist Girls' School. Attendance: SRO some of the nights! . . . 250 column inches of newspaper coverage; 15-minute radio interview . . . 81% success—we have the statistics.

BAGHDAD. Peoples' Auditorium . . . 350 attend . . . Officials of two government ministries launched the program . . . TV: 35-minute interview, 15-minute newsreel, plus coverage by radio, Voice of America, press . . . We were granted a 5-minute interview with President Aref; he kept us 45 minutes. "Consider me a soldier with you," he told us. He said that plans are to be worked out in Iraq for combatting narcotics and smoking "in spite of our sure knowledge of the reactions of the industries producing such articles." . . . All Baghdad knew the program was



sponsored by Seventh-day Adventists... Results can never be measured. People stopped smoking just because they saw the TV interview. Personally, I believe thousands stopped! **BASRAH.** Municipality Hall . . . Average 200 persons nightly . . . The director of health of Basrah district—a 60-cigarettes-per-day man, on the habit for years—quit! He proclaimed anti-tobacco week in southern Iraq. **BEIRUT.** Beirut [SDA] Cultural Center . . . BBC broadcast in Arabic, English, and French . . . As a direct result of the Beirut series, we have been invited to go to Tripoli to conduct a 5-Day Plan for 200 inmates in North Lebanon's main prison! **BENGHAZI.** University Auditorium . . . Packed hall . . . 75% of audience electrifying . . . Mayor opened series . . . Prince attended twice . . . 42 minutes on Radio Libya . . . As far as the campaigns alone are concerned, Benghazi was best; people who didn't even attend stopped smoking!

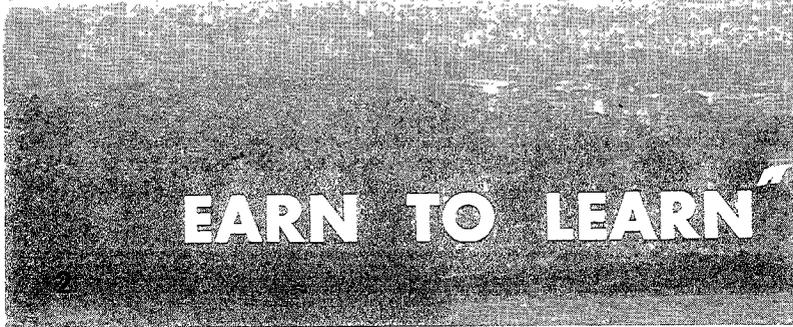
CAIRO. As a result of the 5-Day Plan held in the The Cairo Center we were asked to produce two TV shows for the U.A.R.'s government television station. We just haven't had the time to do it yet.

TEHRAN. Statistically speaking, this series, held in The Tehran Center, was the biggest success: 83% stopped smoking!

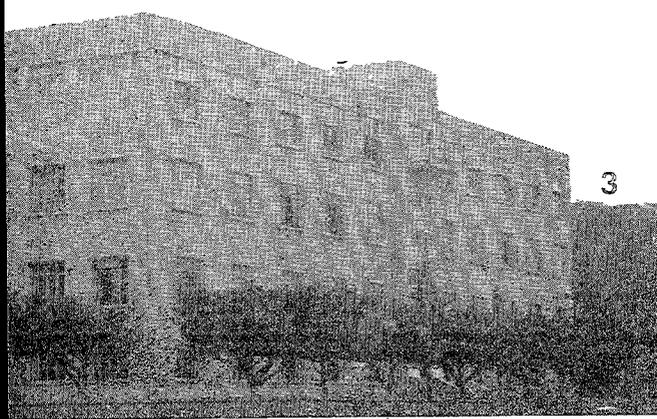




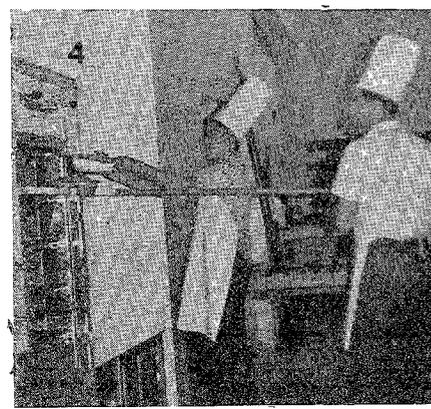
"WHERE STUDENTS



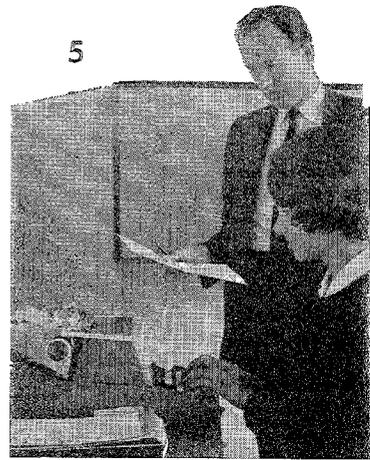
EARN TO LEARN"



3



4



5

- (1) The gateway to service in the Middle East.
- (2) From Paradise Hill, big, bustling Beirut.
- (3) MEC Administration Building: Offices, classrooms, labs, and the Keough Library. It's crowded!
- (4) College-Maid bread is best!
- (5) Selma Antar (Iraq) types for Ignatius Yacoub.



6



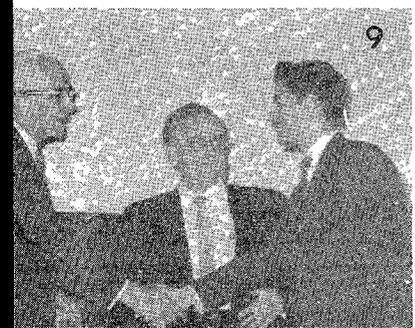
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- (6) The G. Arthur Keough Library NEEDS BOOKS BADLY!
- (7) Herant Maleki (Iran) takes a break.
- (8) Alice Baghdassarian and Farshid Jaiziri (Iran) and Jacqueline Almadj (Lebanon) listen to Habib Bishara's explanation.
- (9) Nadeem Beebe greets church chiefs.
- (10) Wahib Ghazal (Lebanon) and Pastor Bill Clemons talk it over.

PHOTOS FURNISHED BY PINE ECHOES '66

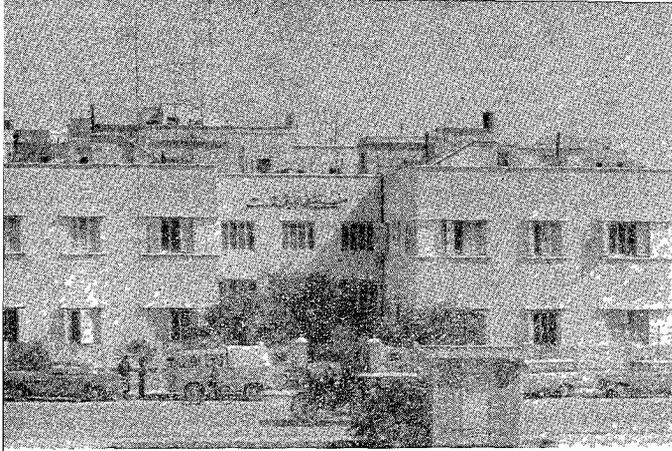


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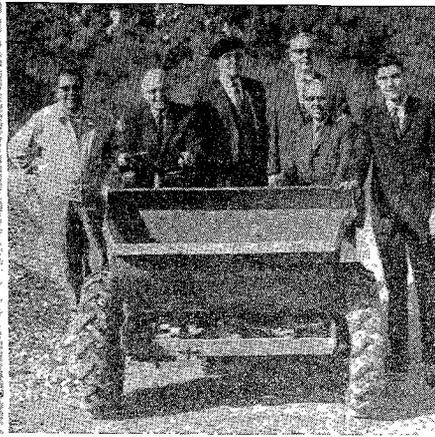


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Middle East College — the college at the crossroads of the world — invites your consideration. Write: The President, Middle East College, Post Office Box 1170, Beirut, Lebanon.



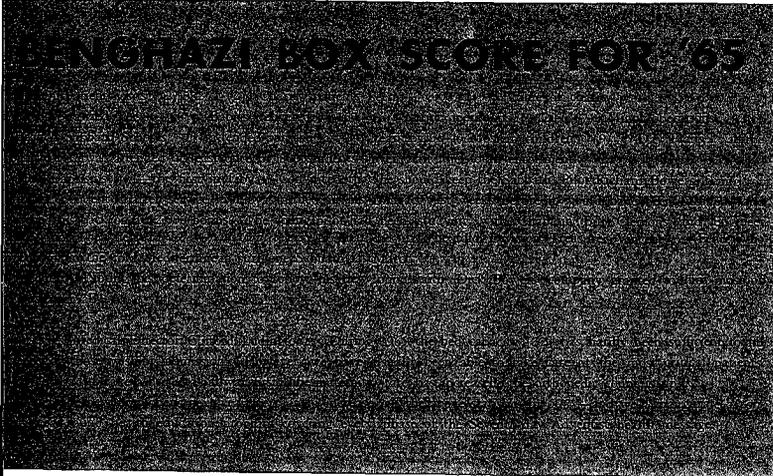
BENGAZI ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
Thirty-two beds are not sufficient.



FIGUHR & CO. *
AT CONSTRUCTION SITE
Next year, the new unit.



IRMA KINTANAR :
BEDSIDE NURSING
Sometimes in a hallway first

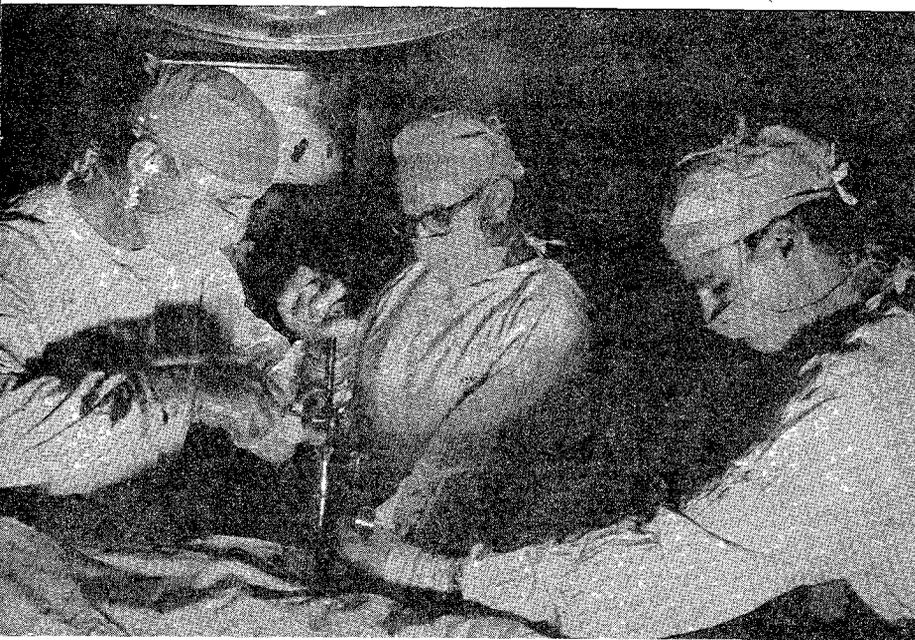


RICHARD BOWERS & FRIENDS **
For firm faith, a bonus blessing.



EVANGELINE VOTH, R.N.
Coming : Year-round health education.

BONE - PINNING PROCEDURE ***
The orthopedic count is up.

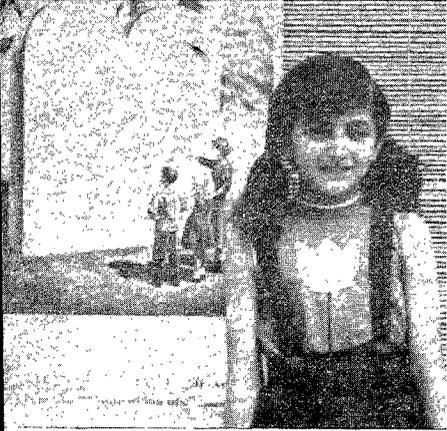


PHOTOS BY
DOROTHY WALTER

*From left, CAT Co.'s construction supervisor, Division Treasurer Vincent A. Fenn at the wheel, GC President Reuben R. Figuhr, Division President Roger Wilcox, Medical Director Clifford Ludington, and Hospital Manager Cleo Johnson.

**Left, Bowers' baptism, Right, greetings from Engineer Russell Nolin, Ludington, Physical Therapist Jack Thompson, Dr. M.T. Oliverio, and Treasurer Fenn who administered the rite.

***Wielding the bone drill, Dr. Eugene W. Hildebrand, with Ludington and surgical orderly assisting.



PERSIAN PRINCESS

She knows her memory verses.

"Now it came to pass in the days of Abasuerus . . . which reigned from India even unto Ethiopia . . . when the king . . . sat on the throne of his kingdom . . . in Shuskan . . . , he made a feast unto all his princes . . . the power of Persia." Esther 1:1-3.

The story has a ring of familiarity even though the event occurred almost five hundred years before Christ. When Xerxes' new queen, the surpassingly beautiful and consummately tactful Esther, had an opportunity to stand for truth and do something valiant for her people, she did it. "Uncle" Mordecai's searching question gripped her heart and mind as she waited for the sceptre's signal: ". . . who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Again old Persia—now modern Iran—comes to the attention of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as members prepare for a significant quarterly event: the 13th Sabbath overflow offering for specific mission projects. The collection to be received Sabbath, June 25, has already been dedicated to the task of bringing new spiritual power to Persia through Christian education.

PRINCIPAL ANOOSH KESHISHZADE
Another VBS award.



Intense, enthusiastic Kenneth Harding, president of the Middle East Division's Iran Section, sets the need in no uncertain terms: "We want an elementary school for 200 students." Then why doesn't the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Iran get busy and build one?

Only 268 SDAs in Iran

The church in Iran is busy, but it is hardly in a position to carry the whole load. As of December 31, SDAs in Iran numbered only 268 in a population of 20 million. These members worship in six churches—three in Tehran, the Shah's capital, and three in the provinces.

Evangelistic and cultural activities are the year-round order of the day at The Tehran Center. Aching backs are eased at the physical therapy clinic.

Every summer a substantial number of the church members gather for ten days on the campus of Iran Adventist Academy in the Elborz Mountains for a real old-fashioned camp meeting held under a big tan tent. It's the only such annual gathering of the faithful in the Middle East.

The academy is a boys' school offering grades seven to twelve. It has its problems. The enrollment dropped this year; something like half of the 30 boys are Moslem. So are too many of the teachers. Pastor Harding points out why these conditions persist. There just aren't enough Seventh-day Adventist students coming up to fill the academy. Similarly, there aren't enough qualified Farsee-speaking teachers to staff the school.

Church Rebuilds Village

Nevertheless, the educational program is Seventh-day Adventist through and through. As this article is written, Middle East College President Kenneth Vine is aboard a big Pan Am 707 bound for Tehran to conduct the academy's Spring Religious Emphasis Week.

Compounding the difficulties of presenting the message for these times is the fact that the message must go to seven ethnic and language groups: Armenian, Arabic, Assyrian, Kurdish, Persian, Russian, and Turkish. How can the church expect to make any impact on such a splintered society?

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, of course—and PR-producing



PERSEPOLIS
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projects like rebuilding an entire village. The story of Ghazal Geshlog before the earthquake of September 1, 1962—and after—is well-known throughout Iran and on around the world.

That shock destroyed many villages in a wide area, among them Ghazal Geshlog. Responding to the critical needs in the disaster area, division and section leaders made an aerial inspection, spotted the totally demolished hamlet in the region of Red Mountain.

Recalls Middle East Division President Roger Wilcox: "I told the pilot to make another pass over that village. We all agreed—this was the place."

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Adds Iran's Harding:
"The government authorities and agencies handling the disaster relief program welcomed our plan. They all said, 'If you Adventists don't go to Red Mountain, no one else will.' The village is just that inaccessible."

New School Is Critical Need

"Anytime we're ready, there are more villages to rebuild," Pastor Harding says with a smile. But the next project is set: that new elementary school for Tehran.

The church leader ticks off the reasons why this project is on his "do it now" list:

"The Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Tehran is the church's only elementary school for Iranian nationals. The present building—we're paying \$250 rent monthly—will not serve after this school year. It has only five rooms; four barely accommodate 10 to 12 students. We need rooms holding 20 to 25 students."

Cost of the minimum 1,500 square meters the new school will need ("Two thousand would be better!") can hardly be expected to be less than \$60,000, but the price could go as high as \$99,000.

"Tehran property," the president stresses, "runs \$40 to \$66 per square meter. The school itself should come in at about \$120,000. At the least, we need a \$75,000 overflow on June 25."

Meantime Principal Anoosh Keshishzade and her five fellow teachers are doing the best they can—and then some. Aside from the lack of space, the school is further limited to just six grades because it has only six teachers. The government code requires at least one teacher for each class.

Miss Keshishzade's faculty is well-qualified. Five hold B.A.s, four of them coming from Middle East College. Their little charges—largely from Armenian Orthodox families—number fifty. Others who are clamoring to get in must wait for the new school.

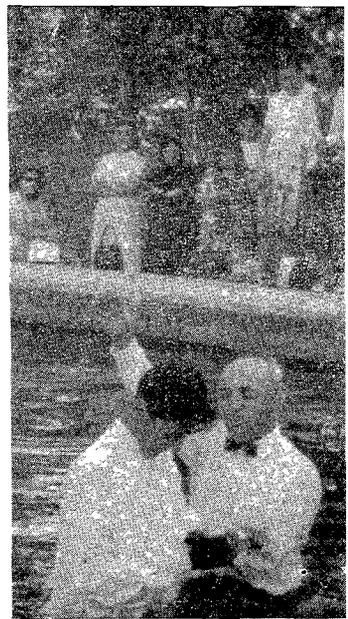
Declares Kenneth Harding: "We want one complete system of education in Iran that will take a child from grade one to grade twelve. We have never had this in Iran."

Persian Youth Defend Faith

Church officials have no doubts as to the blessings that will accrue when the educational system is finally complete. Children will be influenced; the enrollment at the academy will reverse its bearish trend; new princes and princesses will be trained and equipped to bring a resurgence of spiritual power to Persia.

Even so, today's princes are pretty powerful. Pastor Harding likes to tell about Johnny Minassian, MEC graduate and section worker, who stood like the Elborz Mountains themselves when, all alone, he faced the Iranian army with the Sabbath truth. No earthquake shook Johnny. Faithful through thick and thin, he came out successfully with a high rating and the supreme respect of his superior officers.

Then there's Aramais Vartanian who



BAPTISM IN IRAN
Education's accrued blessings

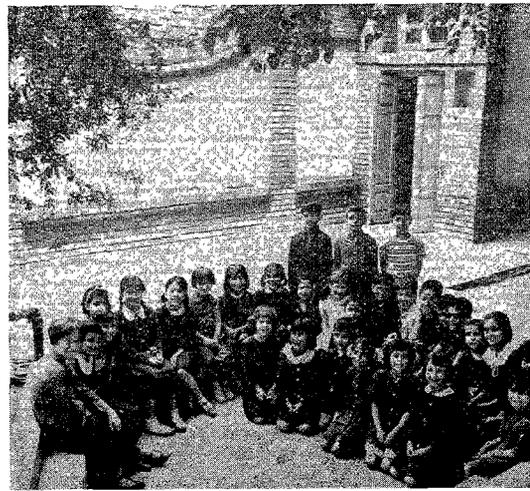
has deliberately skipped his secondary examinations two years running—because they have been held on Sabbath. He still doesn't have his certificate. Now Aramais is at MEC in Beirut cramming English into his handsome head. He's determined to make it. He will—with a clear conscience!

Centuries have rolled into millenniums since Cyrus, anointed of the Lord, established a united Persian empire. Magnificent pillars of the past—Pasargadae and Persepolis—point out the power that was Persia. The old princes are long since dead and buried; even their rocky tombs are crumbling in the sun and the wind.

High time for a greater King to serve a richer feast. Will the students of today—the energy that is Iran—be there?

R.L.F.

STUDENTS AT TEHRAN SDA SCHOOL
Wanted : A school for 200.



Division Youth Hail New Arabic MV Kit

From Division Youth Secretary Anees Haddad (who this summer commences a period of extended State-side study in the behavioral sciences field) come these Missionary Volunteer news notes:

* *The MV Kit* has made its appearance in Arabic. Four 100-page issues have been authorized; the first two are now in the field. Reaction, says Pastor Haddad, is "tremendous."

* The entire 2,000-copy initial press run of Ellen White's *Messages to Young People* is sold out. After five years and 10 church actions, the handy-size volume finally appeared as the 1966 Arabic missionary book of the year.

* The Arabic MV Book Club is now in its 14th year.

* Middle East Youth camps are stronger than ever. Every camper gets a new Bible inscribed with his name. The Bible-marking plan is one of the camp activities. Young people return home with up to 25 basic doctrines studied and marked in their Bibles.

* Youth of the Middle East Division are directing evangelistic meetings, participating in branch Sabbath schools, and achieving high honors in MV progressive classwork.

TOURIST + BOOKS = EVANGELISM

A Mr. Goodlett of California, ordered 26 gift copies of *The Desire of Ages* in Arabic sent to persons met during a 1964 tour of Jordan, after reading a *Review & Herald* news item about the printing of this book.



EVANGELIST SROUR & PASTOR NAJEEB (LEFT & RIGHT)
WITH CANDIDATES

One mind and one purpose bring good success.

CHAFIC SROUR'S OWN STORY:

To Egypt 'to Win Souls'

I arrived in Assuit [along the Nile in Upper Egypt, some 225 miles south of Cairo] October 17 at 3:20 p.m. We started the effort at 6 the same day. I was very encouraged to hear from Pastor Fakhry Najeeb, director of the Assuit District, that there were some who were ready to be baptized when we had a big baptism.

On November 1 we started another effort in Ben-Ady. We had two efforts going on together for about three and a half months—seven meetings a week in Assuit and Beni-Ady, and on Sabbaths we preached in the churches.

Besides Pastor Najeeb and myself, the team included Saad Khilla, Yacoub Ghali, and Samir Aziz. The meetings were well-attended from the beginning till the end. It was difficult to find an empty place!

We had three baptisms as follows: November 27—3, January 2—16, February 2—5. We have at least another six who are planning to be baptized soon.

One of the new members is a pre-medical student; another is our driver who used to take us to Beni-Ady.

Pastor Najeeb and his associates did very well during my stay with them. We had worship six times a week at 9 a.m. Thanks to the Lord we had good success because all of us five workers were of one mind and one purpose: to win souls.

I never had success during my ministry as we had in Assuit and Beni-Ady. May the good Lord continue to bless the meetings over there for the brethren are still holding public meetings in these two places.

Evangelism in the Middle East is not easy, but the good Lord is blessing the efforts of our consecrated ministers and evangelists.

My next effort will be in Basrah, Iraq. I hope and pray many will attend these meetings and will accept the truth. Please pray for us.

BAPTISM IN BASRAH

Pastor Srouf's effort in Basrah—held in the beautiful new church in the heart of the city—goes well, he reported during a week's visit with his family in Beirut in early April. Returning to Iraq's big date growing and packing center for the second phase of his series, the evangelist added: "The meetings close on May 15. On May 14, *inshallah*,* we shall have a baptism." Associated with Pastor Srouf in Basrah is Pastor Najeeb Azar. "We are stressing personal visitation in the homes," the evangelist stated.

* "God willing."



THREE IN KUWAIT

Worth more than black gold.

Nurse Nadia Nashed:

Playing the Waiting Game

Just two days before last Christmas, a giant jet airliner from Karachi, West Pakistan, landed in Beirut bringing Nadia Nashed back to the Middle East. Since then she's been playing the waiting game—waiting for the governmental go-ahead which will allow her to continue her interrupted jet journey to Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

For Nadia Nashed is now a graduate nurse—eager, able, ready, and willing—but waiting.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," recalls the raven-haired alumna of Mother Kruger's Mercy Home in Cairo. "We used to play games and I was always the little nurse."

"Once when I was ten, I was in a mission hospital. During my stay a munitions dump nearby caught on fire. All night long the ammunition was exploding and the sky was bright. All of us in the pediatrics ward were frightened. But one of the nurses stayed with us all night long just to keep us comforted. That impressed me more than anything else."

Now 25, Miss Nashed has traveled a long road since her mother died and her father vanished into the faceless crowds of Cairo. "We were told that he was dead, too." Nadia was only seven then.

Pastor Helps Family

Grandmother took care of the little girl and her brother, just two years older. A sister of her mother, a Seventh-day Adventist, started taking the children to church.

"That's how we became acquainted with SDAs. The local pastor arranged for us to go the Mercy Home."

Nadia attended church school in Heliopolis, was baptized in 1954 during camp meeting held at Nile Union Academy. She moved to Lebanon four years later to attend Middle East Secondary School, graduating in 1962.

With just a tinge of justifiable pride in the tone of her voice, Nadia says: "I earned all my way by working in faculty homes, the kitchen, laundry, clerking in maintenance, assisting in the library and in the dorm. But the real blessing was being able to stay with the Andersons. This helped me get my school work done in the regular time."

Middle East Press Manager Robert Anderson, his wife Elsie, and children Gregory and Joni consider Nadia one of the family—and they fill in the

information gaps with important items which Nadia modestly leaves out.

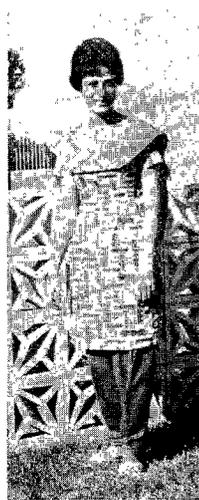
"During her years at MESC she was very active in Sabbath School work," Mr. Anderson reports. "And in Karachi she finished as president of her class and with the highest grades!"

Nadia Likes OR Nursing

Nadia went to Karachi Hospital School of Nursing because the Middle

NADIA NASHED

Bound For Benghazi.



East Division's Dar es-Salaam Hospital in Baghdad had been nationalized earlier by the Kassem regime. Once again the pretty girl from Fayoum had to adjust to a new way of life. It wasn't easy, particularly on her stomach: "The food was hot with chili and curry and spices!"

In 1964 Nadia was delegated to attend the Southern Asia Youth Congress. She became a Master Guide during her not-so-spare time.

Now Nadia likes to show friends her lovely collection of flowing saris and perky Pakistani *shervals* and *kameeses*. More than that, however, Nadia Nashed would like to slip into a snowy white uniform, adjust her cap, and report for duty.

"I like operating room nursing the best. But at Benghazi we'll be doing everything." She can hardly wait to get started!

R.L.F.

'Mujadarah'—It's Tasty!

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

Meet *mujadarah*, a tasty dish from the exotic lands of the Arab world. Follow the directions and your *mujadarah* will taste just as delicious as any served in the Middle East!

The ingredients:

- 2 cups brown lentils
- 1 cup rice

Eastern Cooks Serve Basic Health Foods

BY GLADYS KUBROCK

Centuries before modern nutritionists began to expound the principles of a well-balanced diet, housewives in the Middle East were serving their families delightful, nourishing, and surprisingly healthful dishes. Foods which are today being sold in health food stores in the West have long been staple items of fare in the homes of the East.

Their breads deserve special mention. Made largely of whole grains, without the use of preservatives, they are truly the staff of life. Whether you buy Persian *sangyak*, large flat loaves baked on hot pebbles, or paper-thin mountain bread, crunchy and crisp, it can be a meal in itself. But filled with dried figs and rolled up for a breakfast sandwich or a supper snack and eaten with a bowl of fresh yogurt—what dietitian would dare to say this meal built around Middle Eastern bread is not nutritionally adequate!

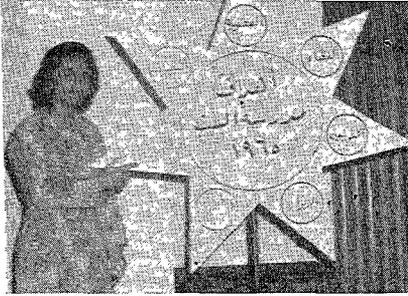
It is in their use of legumes, however, that we especially salute cooks of the Middle East. Perhaps this dates back to the days of those famous Bible twins Jacob and Esau and the time Esau sold his younger brother his birthright for a dish of red-lentil stew. Garbanzos, for example, enriched with sesame butter and served with parsley and other herbs, contain all the elements of a three-course meal.

The usual dessert—fruit or melons. In Iran, conversation continues in a merry manner while everyone eats grapes or pomegranates. In other Eastern countries it may be figs, dates, oranges, or bananas. We have seen young people strolling down the village streets munching on crisp heads of Romaine lettuce!

- 2 onions, chopped lengthwise and browned well
- 3 tablespoons pure virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 10 cups cold water

The directions:

Cook lentils in salted water until half done. Add rice. When the combination is well done, stir in the chopped, browned onions. Serve topped with a crisply fried onion top and salad of tomatoes, onions, and parsley chopped and tossed with a dressing of olive oil and lemon juice.



'HEART' OF CHURCH THROBS IN MIDDLE EAST DIVISION

The "heart" of the church in the Middle East is, as it is everywhere, the Sabbath School. Here are just three random items that reflect throbbing activity in the Sabbath Schools of the Middle East Division:

Turkey—The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Turkey reached its goal of a 50% increase in Sabbath School offerings last year.

Jordan—During the fourth quarter of 1965 the Jordan Section started six new branch Sabbath Schools to bring the total up to 12.

Iraq—To encourage, to promote, to bring a lively spirit to her Sabbath School in Baghdad last year, Secretary Ghazala Khaleel used the interesting goal chart pictured above.

SAWS SENDS SPECIAL SHIPMENTS

Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Services dispatched 18 tons of clothing and bedding to Egypt and seven tons to Jordan. The action followed urgent requests received from the church's representatives in these countries. Jordan Section leaders, for example, were able to aid in the Ma'an flood area early this spring.

A shipment for Lebanon reaching Beirut just as the annual Ingathering program started sharply illustrated what SDAs are trying to do for Middle East people.

SAWS has also supplied CARE parcels for Iran and Turkey.

JORDAN'S FIRST FAMILY AT GC

Attending the 50th General Conference Session during their three-month furlough are the new first family of the Jordan Section, Pastor and Mrs. Willard J. Clemons and children Connie and Robert.

A graduate of Andrew University, Pastor Clemons entered the ministry in the Indiana Conference, went into foreign mission service in 1963 as the chaplain of Benghazi Adventist Hospital. Wife Barbara is the daughter of Northern European Division Publishing Secretary Bruce Wickwire.

IRAN, LEBANON LEAD IN INGATHERING

As thousands of loyal church members in North America go Ingathering for missions every winter, certainly some of them must wonder, "Do the missions themselves go Ingathering?"

Of course—and amidst great difficulties.

The Middle East Division raised \$8,001 last year—a mere drop in the proverbial bucket compared to what elementary schools, academies, colleges, conferences, and unions are doing in the States and Canada.

Nevertheless, \$8,001 is \$8,001—and raising this amount of money through public and private solicitation is no small achievement in the Middle East.

In the first place, only Lebanon and Iran allow the church to conduct its Ingathering program. Ninety per cent of the total comes from the campaigns in these two countries. Any Ingathering done elsewhere in the Middle East is strictly private, strictly unofficial.

Laymen's Activities Department Secretary Carroll V. Brauer can be rightfully pleased that among overseas fields his division stands fourth highest on a per capita basis: \$3.33 per member. Only Northern Europe, Australasia, and Southern Asia rank higher.

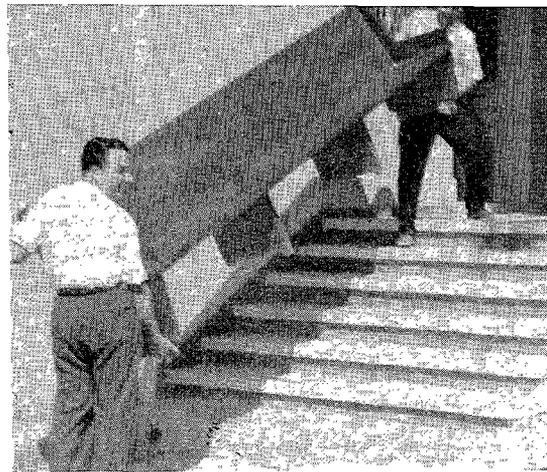
How does the Middle East do it? The same way it is done at home: earnest prayer, tight organization, hard work, and perhaps most important, energizing enthusiasm for the big drive.

Providing the push in Lebanon, Middle East College students participated in a big field day drive last November; on the same day, other students from elementary and secondary schools were out on the streets, knocking on doors, ringing bells, talking to people. Total raised: over 6,000 Lebanese lira—roughly \$2,000.

"A significant factor," Ingathering Director Brauer reports, "was the presence and enthusiastic help of dozens of students of other faiths. In many cases they were the star solicitors."

And when the church in the Middle East can go Ingathering *officially* in the rest of the division's nations—well, that little drop in the bucket will become a real river! R.L.F.

The Clemons, whose home in the Holy Land is Jerusalem, succeed Pastor and Mrs. Harry Robinson, now in graduate study at Berrien Springs. Says the new president: "We want to emphasize personal soulwinning among the laity."



CYPRUS CHURCH OPENS NEW OFFICES

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cyprus has opened new offices in a lovely villa in Nicosia.

Relocation of headquarters and worship facilities was made necessary due to the take over of the former church building during the still unsettled Greek-Turkish civil strife.

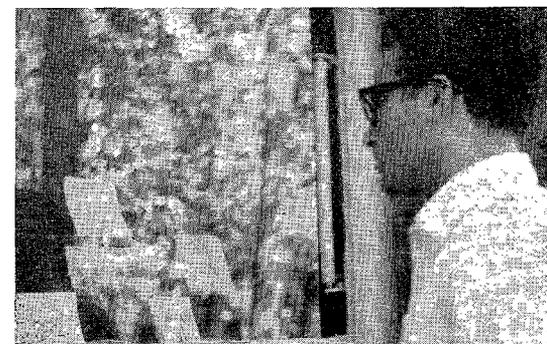
Secretary-Treasurer Moses Elmadjian and President J. Sherwood Jones are pictured above moving benches salvaged from the confiscated church into the new chapel.

SDA BOOK SALES SURGING

A similar window display (see photo below) at the Iran Book & Periodical House caught the eye of Ahmad Farnoody a few years back. It was his first contact with Seventh-day Adventists.

His interest heightened through reading church literature and attending evangelistic services in Tehran, Ahmad went to Middle East College where he was a member of Division Treasurer Vincent A. Fenn's Sabbath school class and attended College Park Church Pastor James S. Russell's baptismal class. He joined the church at the close of the spring religious emphasis week in 1963.

Now preparing for a career in Seventh-day Adventist education, Ahmad leads in sales among student literature evangelists in Iran. Sales of Seventh-day Adventist literature throughout the Middle East Division surged ahead 57% during the years 1962-1965.



WHEN THE DESERTS BLOOM AGAIN

When God created the world, He made its most important area the Middle East. When God planted the first garden, He planted it in the Middle East. When God made man, He placed him in the Middle East. When God chose a city for His very own, He chose Jerusalem—in the Middle East. When God wrote a Book, He wrote a Book about the life and times and peoples—of the Middle East. When God sent His Son to live and die and live again, He sent Him to the Middle East. When "the work" was started, it was started in the Middle East. And when the work is finished, when it's time for *re-creation*, God will recreate first the Middle East.

What was there *then* about these lands at the far end of the Mediterranean that they obviously deserved so much divine attention? What is there *now* about these lands that they seemingly deserve so little divine attention?

Christ Rejected

To answer the first question: God used the nations of the Middle East as a divine object lesson. Blessed beyond measure when the peoples were faithful, punished to the limit when they were faithless—those who lived at the crossroads of the world were commissioned to tell the world of the love and mercy and justice and salvation of Almighty God. The people failed; the object lesson itself did not: the love and mercy and justice and salvation of God became incarnate in Jesus Christ—rejected *then* as the Messiah of Israel, rejected *now* as *ibn allah*, the Son of God.

Perhaps this is the ultimate answer to the second question. God may find it difficult to do very much for those who refuse to accept His most precious gift. Nevertheless, the gospel must go to the uncounted Moslem millions of the Middle East. How?

Seventh-day Adventist members and workers know that in reality God is still blessing the peoples who live at the crossroads of the world—perhaps not collectively, but individually. Here one, there two, maybe four, even eight and sixteen souls are finding the better way. The church in the Middle East fully expects a major breakthrough—and is preparing for that day. After all Pentecost fell first on Jerusalem—and the first shall be last. Truly God will move mightily for the Middle East one day, and the whole church, verily, the whole world will be amazed.

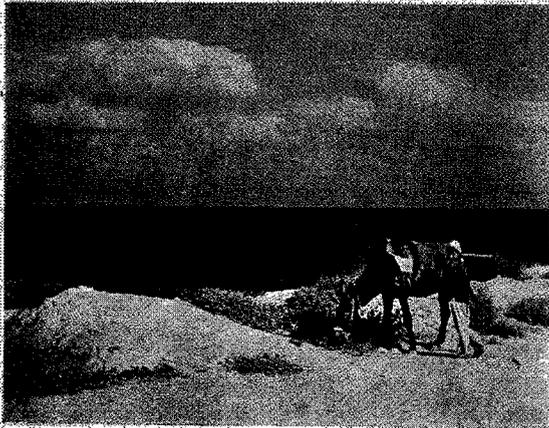
But *how*? The question persists.

Where Is the Burden?

Some serious problems—not the least of which is emigration—must be solved soon. Too many young nationals are too willing to become foreign missionaries



DOVER CROSS
Salvation rejected.



THE GREAT SEA AT TYRE
Gathering clouds — of blessing.

to America, Canada, and Australia instead of home missionaries to their own homelands. Too many of the too few young people coming out of Middle East church schools are going on to Middle East College. And for those who do pursue higher education, the monetary lure of careers in business is too strong to resist. Where are the national pastors, the national teachers, doctors, dentists, and nurses the nations of the Middle East so desperately need now? Where is the burden?

It rests awhile longer on the shoulders of overseas workers, some of whom have spent twenty and more years in the Middle East. Despite frustrating problems of communication and culture, missionaries from America, Canada, Germany, Scandinavia, and the Philippines still must provide the necessary dynamics for church growth: spiritual solidarity, enthusiastic leadership.

In the final analysis, of course, the burden rests on the world church—each member of the world church—to provide what's so necessary for progress: money—money for elementary schools, secondary schools, college development, hospital construction, evangelistic centers. The Middle East Division is profoundly thankful for the financial blessings of the past, but past blessings do not suffice for the needs of today. Thus this extended invitation not only to continue but to increase the flow of financial blessings to the Middle East!

And while the church in the Middle East waits for the latter rain, what can she do now? How can she reach the masses in the cities, the villagers in the hills, the solitary tent-dweller in the desert?

Church Needs Identification

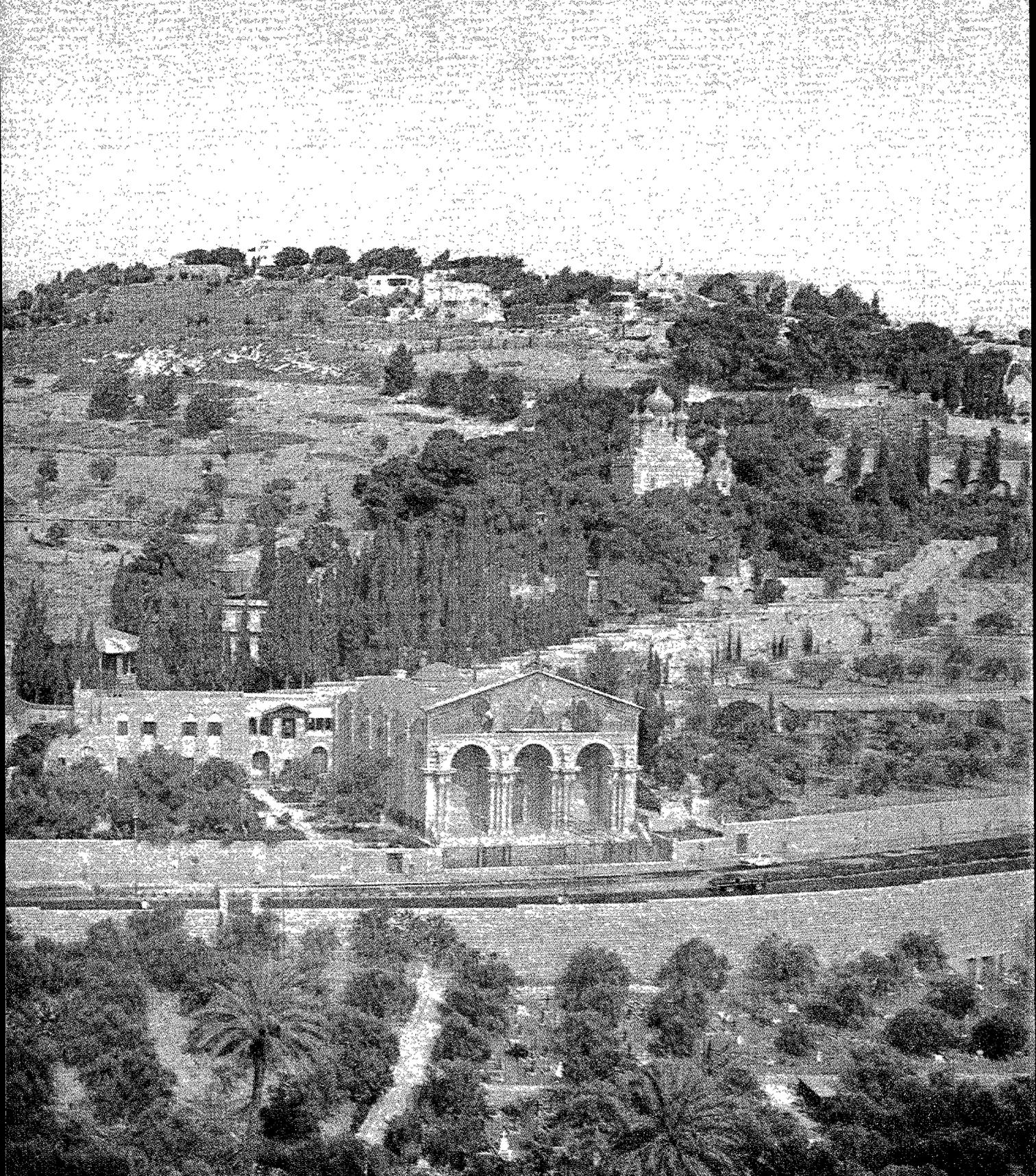
The fantastic success of the 5-Day Plans indicates a clear channel. This is person-to-person evangelism at its finest. Benghazi Adventist Hospital's plans for year-round community health-education services will identify the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a church interested in the total man. What we're talking about is a new and determined effort to make the church known and respected throughout the Middle East through a vigorous program of personal and public relations. We're talking about a new and determined effort to use mass communication media to inform the masses of the Middle East that the Seventh-day Adventist Church cares—cares about the health of every man: his physical and mental health as well as his spiritual health.

The deserts of the Middle East can bloom. It happens every spring after the winter rains.

The church in the Middle East will grow. It will happen when every member and every worker in every place senses that the gathering clouds are clouds of blessing ready to burst.

Is the church really ready for the rain?





Then shall the Lord go forth,
And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives,
which is before Jerusalem on the east,
And the Lord shall be king over all the earth.
--Zechariah 14:3,4,9