

The
Middle
East **Messenger**

January-February 1969
Volume XVIII, Number 1



Millionaires in the Middle East

Each New Year brings us to inventory time. Merchants take inventory so as to evaluate the worth of their businesses or to help calculate the effectiveness of their annual operations. Have you taken inventory of your resources recently? I have—and the results surprised me. I discovered that I am a millionaire!

First, I have good health. How much is it worth? It would be hard to make even an estimate, but I know that if someone offered me a million dollars for my health I would not sell it—even if such a transaction were possible. You wouldn't either. Good health, then, is an important part of my resources.

Second, I have loved ones and so do you. They would include a wife (or a husband), children, parents, brothers, and sisters. Neither you nor I would exchange *one* of them for a million lire. Almost everyone has several such loved ones; I have. So my resources go up into additional millions.

Third, I have an inheritance which is beyond value—"an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven" (*I Peter 1:4*). I wouldn't think of exchanging this inheritance even if someone should offer me the vastly inferior sum of one hundred million dinars—and you know, of course, that a dinar in the Middle East is still worth \$2.80!

Fourth, I have happiness. Have you ever thought how valuable happiness is? Imagine being unhappy day after day! Would you want to put a monetary value on your happiness? Probably not. But remember that there are **thousands of persons with bank assets totaling a million** who would gladly part with all of their money if they could only be happy. So I'll add to my inventory another million for my happiness.

Now you can readily see I am a millionaire many times over—and you are too!

A few months ago an international weekly magazine listed 66 persons from one country alone, each of whom had assets valued at over \$150,000,000. We think it is somewhat of an attainment to have gathered together such a sizeable portion of monetary resources. It takes a certain amount of genius to do so. My millions have not been accumulated by any inherent genius; they have been bestowed upon me by a great and loving God, but they are no less valuable. Actually they are more valuable.

I have found the resources that I have mentioned are continually increasing in value. As I take inventory of them at the beginning of 1969, I find they are worth more to me now than they were a year ago—and they keep increasing in value.

Indeed, I am a *multi-millionaire*—and you are too!

A. C. Webster



Lebanon Schools Make Progress

Progress is *the* word in Lebanon Section schools this year. These children and youth are students in Adventist schools in Mouseitbeh and Bishmezzine.

With 480 students, The Adventist School in Beirut's Mouseitbeh quarter can be termed the largest SDA institution in the Middle East. The school now offers the first part of the Lebanese baccalaureate curriculum.

Up north near the cedars, Principal Issa Kharma is directing an ever-expanding program at the Bishmezzine School.

Cover: Playtime at Mouseitbeh School. *Left:* George Issa teaches an English class. *Above:* Mouseitbeh children like recess best! *Below:* The Bishmezzine School presents a Christmas program in the remote village of Abbedeh. *Pastor Toufic Issa* accompanies the choir.



Below: Coeds at Mouseitbeh. *Right:* These children are receiving Adventist education. (Mouseitbeh School photos by William Armour Potter; Bishmezzine School photos by Minas Megurditchian.)





Top center: Treasurer Robert C. Mills, assisted by Pastors Manoug Nazirian and Shehada Halabi, delivered the sermon at a baptismal service conducted in the Bourj Hammoud's Armenian Church on December 7.

Above: Among those baptized were a mother and son from Sidon, introduced to the faith by Middle East College's Pastor Bert Gillerth and MEC Senior Najeib Nakhle. (Photos by Charles Mills.)

Below: Far up the Nile in Luxor, site of ancient Thebes and Karnak, nine persons found Biblical truth through contact with Pastor Abadir Abdel Messih (third row, second from left) and Pastor and Mrs. Hanna Gad (right).



Fakhry Naguib: Man of Century

For the first time in the history of the Middle East Division one of our workers, Fakhry Naguib, pastor of Egypt's Assiut district, has baptized in his territory more than 100 persons in a single year. The General Conference Ministerial Association refers to such persons as "Men of the Century." Through the ministry of Pastor Naguib the Middle East Division is happy to join the other divisions of the General Conference in leading large numbers in one district to Christ. Pastor Naguib's loyal associates helped set this record. The way was prepared by Division Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury, Section President Habib Ghali, and Health and Temperance Secretary Herschel C. Lamp. But Pastor Fakhry, as he is affectionately known to all of us, laid the plans—and they were evangelistic plans. He organized the thrust which led to success in Assiut. Our congratulations to "Man of the Century" Fakhry Naguib and the Adventists of the Assiut district!

F. C. WEBSTER, *President*



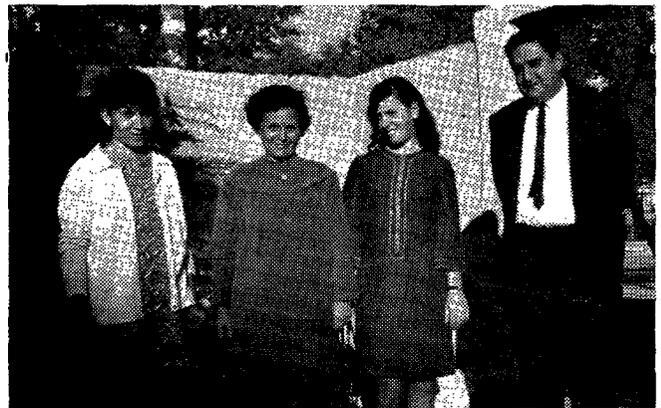
MED Baptisms in 1968

Egypt Section Sets Record

EGYPT SECTION	341
IRAN SECTION	16
IRAQ SECTION	11
JORDAN SECTION	22

The Church's Growth

Business people speak much about investments. The greatest returns. The remnant church should, and the Middle East Division a larger amount of funds was invested. It is natural that such an investment would, and did, increase in sales there is rejoicing by its management. The increase was close to twenty percent of the Division membership through the field. We rejoice that the Lord led us to prosper in saving souls. We rejoice that He has inspired our workers. There are many new believers we can look forward to.



College Park Church Associate Pastor Samir Shahin, newly-ordained to the ministry, prepared these three candidates. (Photo by Salim Japas.)

Our True Objective

Christ commands His church to, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples." It is not enough to build churches, open schools, operate hospitals, and make visits. God expects us to "make disciples." During the year 1968, workers and members turned their eyes toward this true objective, and with God's blessing the results have been heartening. As we begin the new year there is much to encourage. The Gift-Bible plan is being used extensively. Pastors and laymen are joining in strong evangelistic programs. Educational and medical institutions are putting into operation plans for creating and following interests. Church departments are seeking to increase the effectiveness of their activities. But most important of all, individual members, both young and old, are dedicating their lives to the end that in 1969 they may be used to "make disciples."

RAY L. JACOBS, *Secretary*



8: A New Record!

Division Reaches 453

EBANON SECTION	48
LIBYA STATION	7
SYRIA STATION	7
TURKEY SECTION	1

Investment

To find the places to put funds that will bring the same. During the year 1968 throughout the Middle East there was a focus on the saving of souls than in many years past. The results were significant. If a business has a five or ten percent return, it is a good investment. In 1968 the number added to the church in the MED was 53. Usually there is great rejoicing at headquarters and all over the world. The greatest financial emphasis on the direct work of the church is being given. We rejoice, most of all, that the support effectively. We rejoice, most of all, that the work in the earth made new.

ROBERT C. MILLS, *Treasurer*

Above: This young man was baptized by Pastor Aram Aghassian during the December 7 service held in The Armenian Church, Bourj Hammoud.

Below: Before robing, the nine candidates knelt in consecration before the pulpit. Pastor-Editor Richard Lee Fenn offered the dedicatory prayer. (Photos by Charles Mills).

Scenes just like these occurred time and again throughout the Middle East Division in 1968 as laymen and ministers worked together with God to make the hope for a breakthrough become a reality!



Pastor and Mrs. Faye Towfiles (right and left) worked with Evangelist George Khoury in a Tanta, Egypt, campaign which brought in these six happy new members last September. (Photo by George Khoury.)



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RICHARD LEE EFSON, *Acting Editor*

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TURKEY: MANUK BENZATYAN, *President/Secretary-Treasurer*; '14 Satay Arkasi, Ayazpasa, Taksim, Istanbul (Phone: 49-14-48).

The Breakthrough Has Begun!

They said it couldn't be done !

Well over a year ago, the MED Quadrennial Council in Broumanna set some high goals for the church in this part of the world. At the time, only indefatigable optimists dared to believe that such goals could be achieved. The pessimists (fortunately few!) simply shrugged their shoulders and settled back in a state of self-satisfied somnolence, muttering between their teeth: "It can't be done! Why even try?"

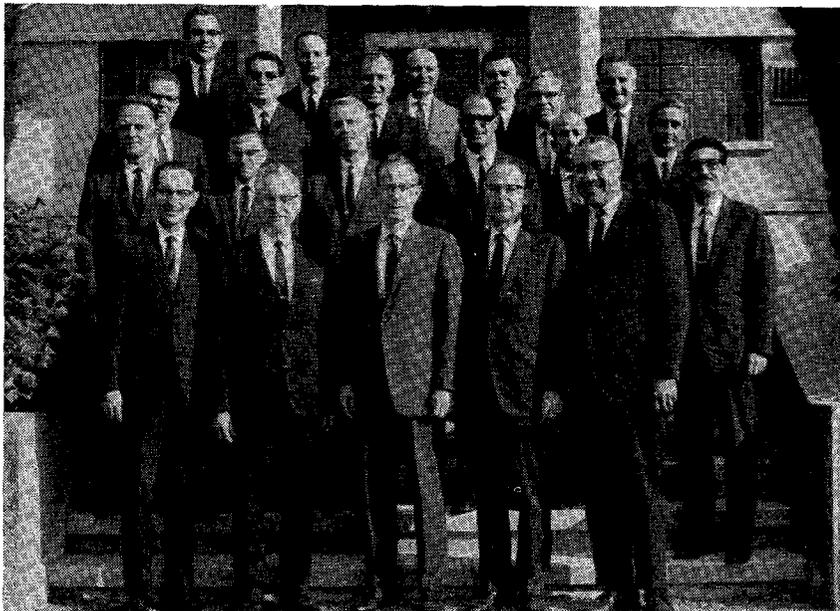
The pessimists, of course, missed the point. Human beings alone couldn't do it, but human beings plugged into the power of Pentecost could—and they have!

We refer to the record number of baptisms in this division of the General Conference during 1968. For the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East, this achievement is nothing less than the beginning of the breakthrough we decided to pray and work for at the Broumanna council.

The world church rejoices with us. Indeed, other fields have reported greater statistics for 1968, but Adventists everywhere have at least an inkling as to what it means when the church in the Muslim-Orthodox-Catholic-entrenched Middle East records 453 baptisms in a year. It means that we are on the verge of victory!

The pessimists have passed off the Middle East scene. They are all optimists now. In the Middle East, every member is praying, working, achieving. The breakthrough has begun!

Fall Council—Middle East Style



The Middle East held its own "fall council" in November, as section leaders joined headquarters personnel for the annual session of the MED's executive committee. Pictured are (first row, left to right) General Conference Assistant Treasurer Robert Osborn, MED Treasurer Mills, President Webster, Secretary Jacobs, and GC Vice President Frank L. Bland; (second row) Jordan Section President Bill Clemons, MED Ministerial Association Secretary Curtis Miller, Iran Section President Harold Gray, Turkey Section President Manuk Benzatyan, MED Assistant Auditor George Yared, Iraq Section President Salim Majeed, and MED Evangelist Salim Japas; (third and fourth rows) Middle East Press Manager Robert Anderson, Health and Temperance Secretary Herschel C. Lamp, Istanbul Layman Zihni Kaymaz, Middle East College Academic Dean Ignatius Yacoub, Cyprus Section President Sherwood Jones, Egypt Section President Habib Ghali, MED Evangelist George Khoury, Benghazi Adventist Hospital Medical Director Clifford Ludington, and Lay Activities Secretary Manouk Nazirian.

TRANSITION

ORDAINED College Park Church Associate Pastors *Bert Gilleroth* (left) and *Samir Shabin* (pictured on page 5) and Middle East College Academic Dean *Ignatius Yacoub* (below) were ordained to the gospel ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a service conducted in the MEC Auditorium on Sabbath, February 8, with MED officials and other ministers participating. Egypt Section President *Habib Ghali* (right) was ordained to the ministry in November at the time of the annual year-end meeting in Heliopolis.



* * *

MARRIED... *Daniel Minassian* and *Jenik Hovanessian*, January 15, in The Nadiri Church, Tehran, with the groom's brother, Pastor *Johnny Minassian*, officiating. *Daniel* is

on the faculty of Iran Adventist Academy.

* * *

DIED *Emmanuel Ansourlian*, November 28, at his home in Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon; of cancer and associated complications. He had looked forward to joining the faculty of the church's Armenian school in Bourj Hammoud.

* * *

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS From General Conference headquarters in Washington: Vice President *Frank L. Bland*, Assistant Treasurer *Robert Osborn* (a former treasurer here), Secretary of Education *Charles B. Hirsch*, and Temperance Editor *Francis A. Soper*.

* * *

GOOD NEWS Local sections are offering the Review, our general church journal, to their national English-reading members for a very low price: \$3 for single subs, \$2 in clubs.

* * *

FURLOUGH On short furlough from Benghazi: the *Darel McConnel* family—and he's going to submit to Berlitz' new one-week total-immersion course in Arabic!

* * *

AID TO MEC Middle East College is grateful to "a very good friend" for a grant of \$10,000 to establish the Student Aid Fund on a firm footing. MEC has also received a grant of \$1,000 from the Loma Linda University Alumni Association.

* * *

INGATHERING Students of Middle East College, Middle East Secondary School, and Beirut Overseas School raked in a record LL4,350 on field day. It not only rained rain that day, it rained Lebanese lire!

* * *

HOSPITAL HELP McKee Bakery, Collegedale, Tennessee, has given The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi, \$5,000. The hospital has also recently recorded a \$743 - increase to the Abney Trust Fund for Charity Patients.



* * *

HONOR ROLL MEC's autumn quarter scholars' list includes *Mohammad Shakibnia* (3.87), *Sarena Hasso* (3.83), *Shirley Bowen* (3.75), *Ivan Stuck* (3.64), *Moses Elmadjian* (3.47), *Roger Cain* (3.36), *Walid Abou Hamzi* (3.33), *Vartoubi Terzibashian* (3.31), and *Larry Crews* (3.30).

* * *

SUMMER SCHOOL Everybody just can't possibly go

to Zurich for the World Youth Congress—so why not go to school instead? Middle East College and Andrews University join forces this summer for six weeks of high-protein courses directed by Dr. *W. G. C. Murdoch*, dean, SDA Theological Seminary.

* * *

RESIDENCY Medical Director *Clifford Ludington* and family left Benghazi December 23 for Louisville, Kentucky, where the doctor finally took up an oft-postponed residency in orthopedic surgery. The Ludingtons will return!

* * *

CONSTRUCTION Now rising slowly (due to Lebanon's wettest winter in a hundred years) on the lower slopes of Paradise Hill in Sabtiyeh are a new church to serve the local Arabic-speaking Adventist community and a new building to provide separate educational facilities for Middle East Secondary School.

* * *

NEW PEOPLE Director of Nurses *Anne Meyer* (September 27) from Kettering Medical Center, Kettering, Ohio . . . Nurse *Isis Ramsis* (October 9) from Egypt . . . Nurse *Luna Atil* (October 17) from the Philippines . . . Acting Medical Director *George Benson* and *Lois* with young *Paul* and *Steve* (October 25) from Riverside Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee . . . X-ray Tech *Dale Perry* and Nurse *Bernadette* (October 31) from Walla Walla, Washington . . . Lab Tech *Bud Sauder* and Nurse *Barbara* with their four children (mid-November) from Takoma Park, Maryland . . . Lab Tech *M. J. Johnson* (December 6) from India . . . and Physical Therapist *Tom Davis* and Dental Hygienist *Pauline* (December 12), from Upland California.

MESSAGES

* For some time now I have been grateful to receive a copy of your very fine magazine. Since we have so many friends in the Middle East who were students here at Andrews University and for whom we feel a real bond of affection, we are intensely interested in the work in your area. We wish to thank you for sending it to us at the request of Mrs. *Elias Estephan*, I believe, or possibly Pastor *George Khoury*.

MRS. VERNE H. FERRIS
Berrien Springs, Michigan

* Thank you so much for The Middle East Messenger . . . We will try to do all we can to help the offering . . . to be a good overflow for your division.

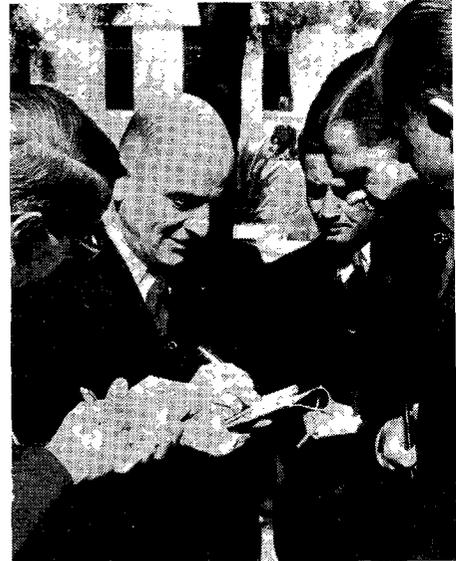
MRS. PAUL ROGERS
Raytown, Missouri

* Many thanks for your most interesting paper. The Sabbath School was very interested in your division the last quarter of 1968 and a good offering was given on 13th Sabbath. We here on Pitcairn Island have a worldwide vision of God's work and we are trying to let the light shine in every way possible.

We are sorry to hear by radio that there is some trouble in your country, but we pray that God will bless and protect you all.

W. G. FERRIS
Pastor

Pitcairn Island



Left: Delegates to the MED Temperance Secretaries Council visit Lebanon's famous mental hospital at Asfouriyeh. Left to right, Pastor Mousa Azar (Jordan), Pastor Habib Ghali (Egypt), Moses Elmadjian (Cyprus), Asfouriyeh Hospital Medical Director Dr. Antranig Manugian, MED Assistant Auditor George Yared, Listen Editor Francis A. Soper, Mesenger Editor Richard Lee Fenn, MED Temperance Secretary Dr. Herschel C. Lamp, MED Secretary Ray L. Jacobs, Office Secretary Nazi Srour, Asfouriyeh Chief Psychiatrist Vahe Buzantian, Office Secretary Berta Jacobs, Pastor Salim Majeed (Iraq), Benghazi Adventist Hospital Health Educator Jerald W. Whitehouse, and Pastor Manuk Benzatyan (Turkey). *Right:* Dr. Manugian provides Editors Fenn and Soper (right) and Council Secretary Whitehouse (left) with needed information. Iraq's Pastor Majeed (center) watches.

Temperance Men Make New Plans

BY JERALD W. WHITEHOUSE

"I have been made aware of the importance and possibilities of temperance work."

This is what one delegate said as the three-day Middle East Division Temperance Secretaries Council concluded February 5 in Beirut.

Keynote Speaker Francis A. Soper, associate secretary of the International Temperance Association at the General Conference in Washington, told the council that "temperance is the preparatory work for the reception of truth. It melts away misunderstanding and prejudice; it gives us opportunity to register our cooperation with public officials; and it provides a positive means of helping others."

Council Chairman Herschel C. Lamp, MED health and temperance secretary, offered a well-balanced program of worship, factual material, and ideas and plans.

Council delegates:

- * Reviewed and evaluated The 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, adopting several recommendations aimed at increasing its effectiveness;

- * Voted to expand temperance activities in the Middle East through the production and use of both new and presently-available materials and to develop basic education programs in schools and communities;

- * Studied various aspects of alcoholism and narcotics addiction during a field trip to the Lebanon Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders.



Above: Dr. Manugian explains the hospital occupational-therapy program to delegates attending the MED Temperance Council. *Below:* Temperance men explore the park-like grounds of Asfouriyeh. (Photos by Charles Mills.)

