

1551  
Midyear Committee  
May 15, 1968

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION MIDYEAR COMMITTEE

Beirut, Lebanon May 15, 1968 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

F. C. Webster, R. E. Anderson, Manuk Benzatyan, W. J. Clemons, Habib Ghali, Harold L. Gray, Ray L. Jacobs, J. Sherwood Jones, Maurice Katrib, George Khoury, H. C. Lamp, M. D., D. C. Ludington, M. D., Salim Majeed, L. C. Miller, R. C. Mills, Manoug Nazirian, Chafic Srour, K. L. Vine, R. W. Wilmot, George Yared

From the General Conference: J. E. Edwards

By Invitation: Mousa Azar, Ziki Hannawi

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE:

Opening Song: Church Hymnal, #631, "I'm Pressing On The Upward Way."

Prayer: Maurice Katrib, R. C. Mills

J. E. Edwards, Lay Activities Secretary of the General Conference, presented the Devotional. A man with a heart attack was revived long enough to hear a friend shout, "Man, you are dying and you are not ready!" The dying man feebly responded with the prayer "Jesus, save me!" Jesus does save, but each one should heed the counsel given by Paul to examine himself, (II Cor. 13:5) to be certain that his religious experience is the genuine article and not simply a veneer.

Although no I. Q. test has been devised to ascertain the degree of spiritual maturity attained by the Christian, the following 7 points may well be considered. (Four were considered in this devotional hour and the remainder were presented in the Middle East College Board on May 16.)

- 1) Do I really enjoy praying and studying the Bible?
- 2) Do I choose to do the right thing or the expedient thing?
- 3) Am I becoming less critical of others?
- 4) What is the radius of my interest?
- 5) Do I really forgive?
- 6) Do I trust God or do I worry?
- 7) Who is first in my thoughts and in my service?

Prayer was offered by D. C. Ludington, M. D.

OPENING

In his opening remarks, the chairman, F. C. Webster, expressed appreciation for the increasing interest and activity in public evangelism throughout the Division. Habib Ghali held three efforts simultaneously in the Assiut district resulting in 40 baptisms to date. George Khoury and Salim Japas have held successful efforts in Egypt and Jordan during the first quarter of the year. Maurice Katrib baptized 8 as the result of an effort held in Damascus. Mention was made of other campaigns conducted by Hilal Dose, Mousa Azar, and others.

68/75 DAILY PROGRAM

VOTED, To adopt the daily program as follows:

6:45 - 7:15	Breakfast
7:30 - 8:15	Devotional
8:30 - 12:15	Committee
12:30 - 1:30	Dinner
2:00 - 5:30	Committee
6:00 - 7:00	Supper

68/76 STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTED, To name the following standing committees:

Distribution of Labor and Nominations

F. C. Webster, Chairman	J. S. Jones
W. J. Clemons	D. C. Ludington, M.D.
Habib Ghali	Salim Majeed
Harold Gray	R. C. Mills
R. L. Jacobs	K. L. Vine
Salim Japas	

Finance Committee

R. C. Mills, Chairman	Salim Japas
R. E. Anderson	K. L. Vine
Habib Ghali	R. C. Wilmot
Harold Gray	George Yared
R. L. Jacobs	

68/77 R. C. DARNELL -- FURLOUGH EXTENSION

R. C. Darnell was granted an extended furlough of thirteen months ending May 9, 1968 (MED 66/97, 67/8) in order to complete the requirements for a doctorate in the field of Near Eastern Languages and Literature at the University of Michigan. Brother Darnell has successfully passed his comprehensive examinations and begun work on his proposal. He requests authorization to remain at the University until the end of October where he can do the necessary research, and then to return to Beirut where he can complete work on his dissertation, which he may defend before a committee from the University that plans to be in the Middle East during the summer of 1969. It was

VOTED, To extend the furlough of R. C. Darnell until October 31, 1968.

RLJ

68/78 MUNIP MASLOUB -- FURLOUGH

In harmony with the Recommendation of the Benghazi Adventist Hospital Board (BAH 68/4) it was

VOTED, To approve a furlough for Munir Masloub and family to Beirut, Lebanon in 1968, date to be arranged with the Hospital Administration.

RLJ

68/79 RAE ANNA BROWN -- FURLOUGH

VOTED, To authorize a regular furlough for Rae Anna Brown, of Benghazi Adventist Hospital, effective April 1, 1968, after more than four years service.

RLJ

68/80 MARRIAGE OF WORKERS TO NON-ADVENTISTS

VOTED, To reaffirm the action of the Middle East Division Committee Minutes 63/20, page 1035, which reads as follows:

"The denomination follows the general practice of choosing workers from those who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Those who are employed in the work stand as examples of the faith before the church and community. The young people of the church are encouraged to marry individuals of their own faith. When workers marry those not of the Adventist faith a wrong example is placed before our youth and the principles set forth in II Cor. 6:14 are not upheld.

"VOTED, That whenever an Adventist worker in any organization of the Middle East Division shall engage in a courtship with one not of the Adventist faith, such a worker shall be counseled by the administrator of his employing organization to discontinue such relationship, and that

where such counsel is ignored, the individual be informed of the provision in the following section.

"VOTED, That an Adventist worker employed in an organization of the Middle East Division who enters into an engagement for marriage with one not of the Adventist faith be released from the work.

"VOTED, To recommend that in 1963 each Section shall plan for one Sabbath on which the pastors shall present in a sermon to the churches, the subject of the standards of the church including an appeal to the members to follow the scriptural counsel with respect to marriage with unbelievers.

"VOTED, To counsel with pastors in the Middle East Division not to perform the engagement ceremony of a believer with an unbeliever." RLJ

68/81 AMMAN SCHOOL PROPERTY -- RESCIND ACTION AUTHORIZING SALE

In 1962 a tract of land was purchased near Amman, Jordan for the establishment of a boys' boarding school (MED 62/124). When this project was abandoned authorization was given to sell the land. (MED 64/9) Following the June, 1967 war, it was decided to establish an orphanage on this property. It was therefore

VOTED, To rescind our action 64/9 authorizing the sale of the property originally purchased for a boarding school near Amman, Jordan. RLJ

68/82 JORDAN SECTION - REQUEST FOR USED CLOTHING

In harmony with the request of the Jordan Section, it was

VOTED, To pass on to the General Conference the request of the Jordan Section for used clothing (primarily children's) and blankets, as follows:

25 bales	Summer clothing
75 bales	Winter clothing
200	Blankets

FCW

68/83 RADIO-TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VOTED, That the following persons be named an Advisory Committee for the Radio-TV Department and related correspondence schools in the Division territory, it being understood that major items shall be re-

ferred to the Division Committee for action:

F. C. Webster, Chairman  
L. C. Miller, Secretary  
R. L. Jacobs  
Salim Japas  
R. C. Mills  
Salim Majeed  
Philip Srour

RLJ

68/84 WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS

On recommendation of the MV Department, and in harmony with our action MED 67/269, it was

VOTED, 1. To approve the sending of approximately 30 delegates to the World Youth Congress to be held in Zurich, Switzerland, July 22-26, 1969.

2. To rent a booth for \$25.00.

3. To refer to the yearend committee meeting the financial arrangements for expenses connected with the Congress.

4. That the following be named a Steering Committee to lay plans and bring recommendations to the Division committee for final approval:

Manoug Nazirian  
R. C. Mills  
R. L. Jacobs  
I. Yacoub  
Chafic Srour

RLJ

68/85 ARABIC SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLIES - ENLARGEMENT

The Arabic Sabbath School Quarterlies are now printed in 48-page editions which are insufficient for the inclusion of all the notes and questions appearing in the English. Approximately one fourth of the material is deleted with consequent loss to the Arabic members. It was

VOTED, To recommend to the Middle East Press that the Arabic Sabbath School Quarterly be increased from 48 to 64 pages, and that the price be increased to LL 6.00 per year. It is understood that the number of quarterlies published will be increased from 1,000 to 1,500. And further

To recommend to the local Sections that a gift subscription of the Sabbath School Quarterly for one year be given to each new Arabic-speaking convert.

RLJ

Adjournment was at 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday afternoon, May 15, the committee convened at 2:00 p.m. Manuk Benzatyan offered the opening prayer.

Dr. D. C. Ludington gave a report regarding the accident suffered by Jan Fahrback, 12-year-old daughter of Dr. D. C. Fahrback on April 8 when a shell exploded causing a piece of schrapnel to pass entirely through her heart. Through a series of miracles and prompt attention her life has been spared. She was flown to Loma Linda where the heart team successfully operated on her on May 2.

68/86 H. C. LAMP - PERMANENT RETURN

In harmony with this request, it was

VOTED, To recommend to the General Conference that H. C. Lamp, M.D., be granted a permanent return effective June 20, 1969, for educational reasons, and further

To express to Dr. Lamp appreciation for his four years and nine months service as Medical Secretary of the Division.

RLJ

68/87 VACATION POLICY - EDUCATIONAL WORKERS

VOTED, To rescind the entire section entitled "Educational Workers", page 60 of the Working Policy, and to insert the following:

Regular full-time elementary and intermediate teachers shall be entitled to the same vacation privileges as other workers. When national laws require that teachers be granted longer annual vacations, these requirements shall be observed, and teachers shall be invited to offer their services for voluntary church activities, such as Vacation Bible Schools, Junior and Senior Camps, or to up-grade themselves by attendance at summer schools, or to prepare visual aids, lesson plans and other materials that will aid them in their teaching work, or to occupy their time in any other way that would serve to advance the work of the church and increase their efficiency in their vocation.

RLJ

68/88 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FILM

VOTED, To authorize the purchase of the Religious Liberty Department 45-minute, black-and-white film entitled "Crusader for Freedom" at a cost of \$95.00.

RCM

68/89 EVANGELISM - PLAN FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING

Salim Japas has presented a plan for a pilot project aimed at preparing successful public evangelists in the various fields of the Division. It contemplates intensive training of one worker from each Section during a week-long institute and direct assistance in one or more evangelistic campaigns in company with and in the field from which the worker comes. It was

VOTED, That the pilot project submitted by Salim Japas be implemented, as follows:

1. That a training institute be held in Beirut, July 3-9, 1968.
2. That each Section be invited to send one worker to the institute, it being understood that the Section will pay the transportation expense to Beirut and return, and that the entertainment expense will be borne by the Division.
3. That the following workers be recommended to the local Sections for attendance at the Institute:

Egypt	Farouk Risk
Iran	George Terzibashian
Iraq	Samir Dawood
Jordan	Bishara Taweel
Lebanon	Salam Aboujauda
Syria	Gabriel Katrib

FCW

68/90 EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS - APPROPRIATIONS

VOTED, To approve evangelism appropriations as follows:

Cyprus	CyL	700.000	LL	5,124.00
Egypt	IEg	4,000.000		27,440.00
Iraq	ID	900.00		7,686.00
Iran	Rls	150,000.00		6,100.00
Jordan	JD	350.000		2,898.00
Lebanon	LL	30,000.00		30,000.00
Syria				
Turkey	TqL	1,000.00		<u>339.00</u>
	TOTAL		LL	79,678.00

RCM

The following four actions are a partial report of the Finance Committee.

68/91 RENT ALLOWANCE ON HEATED APARTMENT - POLICY REVISION

VOTED, That when workers occupy rented housing facilities in which heat is supplied and included in the rental charge, 15% of the total rental charge be considered as utilities expense to be paid by the worker, it being understood that he is entitled to report this expense as part of his utilities cost for subsidy.

RCM

68/92 WIVES OF WORKERS - EMPLOYMENT

VOTED, To amend our policy on the employment of wives of workers by substituting the following in place of that found in the Middle East Division Working Policy, page 93 (MED 66/255) under the heading "Salary of Wives of Workers":

"Wives of workers in the Middle East Division do not receive a separate salary when assisting their husbands in a general way in their work. However, when their services are required for work for which they are qualified they may be employed and paid at the same rate as for unmarried workers in the same field of service, as follows:

"1. The committee shall determine the proportion of full time necessary for the work assigned, and payment shall be made accordingly.

"2. Forty hours per week (174 hours per month) shall be considered full time for office workers. Hourly rates shall be set on this basis.

"3. Wives employed as teachers are paid throughout the school year, plus an additional two weeks to be used in preparation for the school year and completion of work at the close of the year, plus the regular vacation applicable. During the period between school terms, separate payment is to be made for any specific work assigned. In countries where the law requires payment throughout the entire calendar year, the total school year's salary is to be divided by twelve and paid in equal monthly amounts during the twelve months of the payment year.

"4. Wives who are not considered family heads shall not be paid for time not actually worked, with the above exceptions for vacations and for the regular holidays approved for other workers. In the case of part-time workers, payment for vacations shall be prorated on the basis of the total time worked during the preceding twelve months."

RCM



68/93 CAR AUTHORIZATION - POLICY REVISION

VOTED, To amend the Automobile Policy (MED Working Policy, page 104) by deleting section 1, and substituting the following:

1. The controlling committee shall authorize the automobile in consultation and with approval of the officers of the Division. The automobile is to be purchased and owned by the worker. In order to avoid disappointment, the worker should not purchase a vehicle for which he anticipates authorization before the final approval of the Division officers has been secured.

68/94 SUSTENTATION POLICY - REVISION

VOTED, To amend the policy on Sustentation Rates by substituting the following in place of MED Working Policy, page 138-B, Section 35 (MED 67/307 and 67/142):

35. a. Sustentation rates shall be directly related to the denominational Wage Scale and the allowance per year of service shall be uniform from the minimum rate for 15 years of service to the maximum rate for 40 years of service.

b. The monthly family rate of sustentation for fifteen years of service shall be set at 24% of the 100% salary level, and for each additional year of service from fifteen to forty there shall be added 1.6% of the 100% salary level, making a maximum of 64% of the 100% salary level for forty or more years of service.

c. The monthly single rate of sustentation shall be three-fourths of the monthly family rate (18% of the 100% level for fifteen years of service and 1.2% of the 100% salary level for each additional year of service from fifteen to forty, making a maximum of 48% of the 100% salary level for forty or more years of service).

d. In no case is the sustentation rate to exceed 75% of the highest percentage rate received by the sustentee as a regular worker.

(In applying the above formula for the computation of sustentation rates, no existing sustentation amounts are to be reduced. As the 100% salary level is adjusted upward, minimum sustentation rates may eventually reach the existing amounts.)

Adjournment was at 5:00 o'clock and Manuk Benzatyan offered prayer.

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION MIDYEAR COMMITTEE

Beirut, Lebanon May 16, 1968 4:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

F. C. Webster, R. E. Anderson, Manuk Benzatyan, W. J. Clemons, Habib Ghali, Harold L. Gray, Ray L. Jacobs, Maurice Katrib, George Khoury, H. C. Lamp, M. D., Salim Majeed, L. C. Miller, R. C. Mills, Manoug Nazirian, Chafic Srour, K. L. Vine, R. W. Wilmot, George Yared

From the General Conference: J. E. Edwards

By Invitation: Mousa Azar, Ziki Hannawi

Prayer: Habib Ghali

68/95 JOURNAL OF TRUE EDUCATION -- POLICY REGARDING SUBSCRIPTION COST

VOTED, That The Journal of True Education be provided free to all full-time teachers and educational secretaries, the expense being shared as follows:

Division	35%	
Local Section	65%	RCM

68/96 EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR EGYPTIAN S.D.A. STUDENTS

VOTED, That the following financial plan be adopted for Egyptian Seventh-day Adventist students studying in Middle East Secondary School and College:

I. The student himself is responsible for his educational expense and must arrange for payment of his account either by cash payments, signed sponsorship acceptable to the school, labor, or a combination of these as arranged between the student and the business manager of the school.

II. There are to be maintained in the offices of the Middle East Division in Beirut and in the Egypt Section in Cairo funds entitled in each place "Educational Advancement Fund."

a. The "Educational Advancement Fund" in Cairo is to receive voluntary contributions from parents, relatives or friends of students at the Middle East Secondary School or College or from any

other source. Such funds are to be used for the development and maintenance of S. D. A. schools in Egypt.

b. The "Educational Advancement Fund" in Beirut is to receive appropriations from General Conference and Division funds as approved by the Division Committee and from any other source. Disbursements are to be made from the Division Fund.

1. To the Middle East Secondary School or College to apply on the account of an Egyptian student

(a) In amounts equivalent to sums appropriated by relatives or friends of such a student to the "Educational Advancement Fund" in Cairo.

(b) Additional amounts as requested by the Egypt Section Committee and approved by the Division Committee.

2. To any other project as approved by the Division Committee.

68/97     IRAN SECTION -- EXIT TAX FOR STUDENT COLPORTEURS

The question of the payment of the Iran exit tax for student colporteurs qualifying in hours and sales for scholarships for attendance at Middle East College was referred to the 1967 year-end Division Committee meeting. (MED 67/43. See also MED 64/334).

WHEREAS, No provision has been made for the payment of this exit tax for the year 1968, it was

VOTED, 1. That the Division pay the exit tax for student colporteurs who qualify in hours and sales for scholarships and who attend Middle East College and/or Middle East Secondary School for the year 1968, and

2. That in the future the Iran Section be advised to include this item in their regular budget or make other adequate arrangements for this financial assistance.

The following recommendations from the Lay Activities Council were approved:

68/98 PENETRATION TRACT

VOTED, That the Lay Activities Department prepare a penetration tract for use throughout the Division, it being understood that the manuscript be approved by the Literature Planning and Reading Committee and that final approval of both the manuscript and publishing be given by the Division committee. MN

68/99 DECISION FILMSTRIPS -- "IN HIS STEPS"

VOTED, That the Lay Activities Department be authorized to make the Arabic filmstrip In His Steps available to the field. MN

68/100 BETTER LIFE PICTURE ROLLS -- SUBSIDY

VOTED, That the regular subsidies be continued for the Better Life Picture Rolls. MN

68/101 GIFT BIBLE EVANGELISM -- GOAL FOR BIBLES

VOTED, 1. To set a goal of 8,000 Bibles to be purchased by church members for use in Gift Bible Evangelism, to be divided as follows:

Cyprus	500
Egypt	2,000
Iran	1,000
Iraq	750
Jordan	500
Lebanon	2,250
Libya	50
Syria	700
Turkey	<u>250</u>
Total	8,000

2. To authorize the publication in mimeograph form of the Gift Bible Evangelism manual in Arabic. MN

68/102 "THE ART OF OBTAINING DECISIONS"-- PUBLICATION

VOTED, To authorize the translation and publication in mimeograph form of 1000 copies of the booklet The Art of Obtaining Decisions.  
MN

68/103 WELFARE CENTERS -- ESTABLISHMENT

VOTED, That study be given to the establishment of a welfare center in each of the local sections.  
MN

68/104 DISASTER AND FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE POLICIES

VOTED, To record the policy of the Disaster and Famine Relief Committee (SAWS), as follows:

DISASTER AND FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE POLICIES

GENERAL STATEMENT: It is the understanding of the committee that the Disaster and Famine Relief Fund is to be used to provide clothing, food, medicines and other relief supplies in cases of extreme emergency and need only, and especially for victims of major disasters such as earthquake, hurricane, tornado, flood, and fire. These funds are considered as supplementary to regular welfare funds of division, union, and local fields, which are derived from a portion of Ingathering funds or from other sources.

Requests must first be placed by the division. The committee will then endeavor to provide assistance on the basis of need and within the limits of available resources.

1. Requests for assistance will be considered only if they come through the regular channels, bearing the approval of division officers.

2. Requests should be addressed to the chairman or secretary of the relief committee, or to the associate secretary of the Home Missionary Department, who is in charge of welfare services.

3. When sharing requirements are attached to a cash grant, the portion required of the overseas field shall not exceed 50% of the amount appropriated by the Disaster and Famine Relief Committee.

4. Cash grants may be used to give direct and immediate aid to relieve victims of disaster, both non-Adventists and Adventist Laymen.

5. Cash grants may not be used to aid denominationally employed workers. Aid for such workers shall be considered within the responsibility of their employing organization.

6. Cash grants may not be used to repair or restore denominationally owned structures of any type.

7. Cash grants may not be used for salary or expenses of personnel assisting in relief operations or in purchases or operation of conference owned equipment or buildings. It is expected that these will be provided by the conference or mission organization.

8. In order for the committee to be able to give a more complete report to the constituency of the funds entrusted to them for relief purposes, the treasurer of the division will be expected to provide the committee with a report of expenditures within a reasonable period of time.

9. U. S. surplus commodities cannot be shipped to a disaster area unless a food distribution program has previously been submitted by our mission representatives in the country involved and received approval of the U. S. Government.

10. CARE food is available only in certain countries and at certain times.

11. When clothing shipments are requested from General Conference warehouses, weight of clothing should be specified (light or heavy), and quantity needed of each weight should be stated in bales (125 lb. average) or in pounds or tons.

12. No clothing will be shipped to a country unless a duty-free entry certificate is first secured by our mission representatives in that country.

13. The port to which clothing is to be shipped should be specified when making a request.

14. A story and photographs of disaster relief services for publication purposes are requested within thirty days of each major disaster. Please mention aid received from the General Conference Disaster Relief Fund, without referring to the amount of cash appropriation.

15. In the event of a disaster in your area, please report to the Washington office of S.A.W.S. immediately an estimate of the extent of damage, number killed, injured and homeless, and the assistance provided locally to victims of the disaster, also whether additional help is requested from the division and General Conference. The Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service is a welfare agency recognized and certified by the United States Government and is expected to make a report to the government of welfare activities conducted in the case of major disasters.

68/105 INGATHERING FUNDS -- POLICY

VOTED, To amend the Policy on "Ingathering Funds," MED WP p. 90, by deleting the sections entitled "Procedure for Handling Funds" and "Ingathering Funds for Welfare Work," and substituting the following:

1. The Division Lay Activities Department shall be responsible for the general promotion plans of the campaign, but each worker within the Division shall be expected to cooperate heartily in the campaign work as the employing organizations shall arrange.

2. All income from the Ingathering effort shall be considered General Conference funds, and shall be reported to the Division in the regular way.

3. The Division Committee shall annually set a goal for the Division as a whole and a goal for each Section, at the time of the Division Annual Meeting.

4. The Ingathering funds shall be used for non-recurring expenses and shall not be spent for Class I-A work, with the exception that up to 20 per cent of all funds returned to the local field may be used for recurring educational purposes.

5. The total funds received up to March 31, after deducting expenses for materials, shall be appropriated by the Division as follows:

- a. To Division Funds 25%
- b. To the Section in which the funds were collected 75%

6. The funds reverted to the Sections shall be used as follows:

- Welfare work 20%
- Educational purposes 20%
- The remainder is to be used for special projects approved by the Section and Division committees. RCM

68/106 INGATHERING LEAFLET -- TRANSLATION

VOTED, To authorize the translation into Arabic of the Ingathering leaflet containing quotations from the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. MN

68/107 HELPS FOR INGATHERING SOLICITORS -- TRANSLATION

VOTED, To authorize the translation into Arabic of the leaflet Helps for Ingathering Solicitors. MN

68/108 "DOORWAY TO DISCOVERY" FILM -- PURCHASE

VOTED, To authorize the purchase of the Lay Activities Department film, "Doorway to Discovery." Cost \$49.00. MN

68/109 INGATHERING -- GOALS

VOTED, To set the following Ingathering goals for 1969:

Cyprus	CyL	150.000	
Egypt	LEg	500.000	
Iran	Rials	190.000	
Iraq	ID	850.000	
Jordan	JD	200.000	
Lebanon	LL	18,000.00	
Syria	SyL	750.00	
Turkey	TqL	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Division	LL	39,843.71	MN

68/110 LAYMEN'S YEAR

VOTED, 1. That 1969 be designated "Laymen's Year" in the Middle East Division.

2. That a baptismal goal be set of 100 souls to be won by laymen. MN

68/111 LAY ACTIVITIES INSTITUTES

VOTED, To recommend that at least one Lay Activities Institute be held in each church or district every year under the leadership of the Section Lay Activities Secretary and of at least two days duration. MN

End of Lay Activities Secretaries' Council recommendations.



MIDDLE EAST DIVISION MIDYEAR COMMITTEE  
Beirut, Lebanon May 17, 1968 8:10 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

F. C. Webster, R. E. Anderson, Manuk Benzatyan, W. J. Clemons, Habib Ghali, Harold L. Gray, Ray L. Jacobs, J. Sherwood Jones, Maurice Katrib, George Khoury, H. C. Lamp, M. D., D. C. Ludington, M. D., Salim Majeed, L. C. Miller, R. C. Mills, Manoug Nazirian, Chafic Srour, K. L. Vine, R. W. Wilmot, George Yared.

By Invitation: Mousa Azar

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE:

Opening Song: Church Hymnal #313, "When Peace Like a River."

Prayer: Salim Majeed, Chafic Srour, H. C. Lamp

F. C. Webster read from R. H. Pierson's latest book Faith on Tiptoe. Veterans have grown old looking for the Advent of Jesus. Although His coming has apparently been delayed, we know that it is very near and we have the privilege of actually hastening the day.

Special mention was made of Salim Japas who would be undergoing surgery on his left eye that morning, and of the mother of Salam Abaujauda who was admitted to the hospital with a heart attack. These persons were the special burden of the prayer season.

68/112 HAMED OBEID -- SPECIAL SUSTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Hamed Elias Obeid has repeatedly requested sustentation benefits based on his claim to have worked as a colporteur for 16 years, beginning in 1931 and terminating in February 1963, though he states that the work was only intermittent from 1941 to 1955 due to the conditions prevailing during the world war and subsequent unrest.

No records are available for this period when the field was under the direction of the Central European Division. Brother Obeid has in his possession receipt books and letters supporting his claim to have been a colporteur. One bill in his possession is for 500 books sent from Egypt to Iraq in 1939. Various workers attest to his having done effective colporteur work and it appears that he was responsible

for raising up at least one church in Syria. Although Brother Obeid appears to have done successful work, no definite evidence has been found to indicate that he qualified as a full-time credentialed colporteur for the fifteen years required for sustentation. At the same time with no records to cover the period in question, it cannot be affirmed that his claims are not true. It was

VOTED, That in view of Hamed Elias Obeid's intermittent partial service as a literature evangelist, he be granted a total sum of LL 2,000.00, to be charged to the Sustentation Fund. RCM

68/113 BASTA BISHAI -- RECONSIDERATION OF SUSTENTATION RATE

Basta Bishai, a sustentation beneficiary in Egypt has requested reconsideration of his rate. Due to special considerations not having to do with advanced years or declining health, Elder Bishai was placed on sustentation in January, 1948. His monthly payments, according to present policy would now be LEg 28.568. He is currently receiving LEg 35.165 per month. It was

VOTED, that Basta Bishai's sustentation rate be calculated according to the present policy, but that his monthly payments remain at LEg 35.165 until such a time as general salary increases in Egypt may bring his authorized percentage rate into line with the amount he receives. RCM

68/114 MEDICAL AID FOR NEAR OF KIN -- GUIDELINE POLICY

The Medical Policy is intended to aid regular workers and their immediate families. There are exceptional cases, however, when workers are called upon to bear heavy medical expense of their parents and other near of kin who are without other adequate sources of income. At times this causes hardship to the worker who appeals to his employing organization for assistance. In response to requests for a guideline to follow in such cases, it was

VOTED, That assistance may be granted in the case of medical expense incurred by near of kin without other sources of income and who are dependent on regularly employed workers, when, after the expense is divided among all family members who are considered responsible for payment of said expense, the worker's share during a calendar year exceeds the equivalent of  $\frac{1}{4}$  month's salary of the worker if a man and  $\frac{1}{8}$  month's salary if a woman worker. RCM

68/115 LITERATURE PLANNING AND READING COMMITTEE -- ADDITIONS

WHEREAS, four persons named as members of the Literature Planning and Reading Committee are no longer working in the Division, it was

VOTED, To name the following persons to fill vacancies on the Literature Planning and Reading Committee:

Salim Japas  
Salim Majeed  
Hovik Serrafian  
Jerald Whitehouse

68/116 TURKEY SECTION -- DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES AND COMMITTEE

In harmony with the request of the Turkey Section, it was

VOTED, To appoint the following departmental secretaries and committee members:

Manuk Benzatyan, Education, Lay Activities, MV, Publishing, Public Relations, Radio-TV, Sabbath School, Temperance.

Executive Committee:

Manuk Benzatyan, Chairman and Secretary  
Anahid Benzatyan, Recording Secretary  
Yebraksie Gomig  
Zihni Kaymaz  
Kavork Yeshil

RLJ

68/117 MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

VOTED, To approve Ministerial scholarships in harmony with the policy (MED WP 110,111), as follows:

Najeeb Nakle -- Lebanon Section  
George Dragatsi -- Cyprus Section

RLJ

68/118 STUDENT COLPORTEURS -- SUMMER 1968

VOTED, To approve the requests of student colporteurs to canvass in fields other than their homeland, as follows:

Iraq	Francis Saliba Ghalib Azar
Kuwait	Henry Yousef Armen Youssefi
Libya	Nathan Malaka Semir Naguib

FCW

68/119 WADIE HADDAD -- EMPLOYMENT

VOTED, To recommend Wadie Haddad to the Jordan Section for employment.

FCW

68/120 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- EMPLOYMENT OF MINERVA MOUSA

VOTED, To approve the request of Middle East College to employ Minerva Mousa of Lebanon as a secretary.

RLJ

68/121 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- EMPLOYMENT OF NAJI RAZZOUK

VOTED, To approve the employment by Middle East College of Naji Razzouk to serve as manager of the College Store.

RLJ

68/122 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- CALL FOR RUBY WILLIAMS

VOTED, To pass on to the Lebanon Section the call of Middle East College for Ruby Williams to serve as dean of women.

RLJ

68/123 T. W. THOMAS -- CANCEL CALL

WHEREAS, the Iran government has denied a visa for T. W. Thomas, of India, called to teach in the Iran Academy (MED 67/192), it was

VOTED, To cancel the call of the Iran Section for the services of T. W. Thomas.

RLJ

68/124 X-RAY TECHNICIAN -- CALL

On recommendation of the Benghazi Hospital administration,  
it was

VOTED, To pass on to the General Conference the call of  
the Benghazi Hospital for a qualified X-Ray Technician.

RLJ

68/125 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- EMPLOYMENT OF M. ABDUL KARIM

VOTED, To approve the request of Middle East College to  
employ M. Abdul Karim of Lebanon, as assistant purchasing agent.

RLJ

68/126 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- CALL FOR AFFILIATE PROFESSOR

Upon recommendation of Loma Linda University, with which  
Middle East College maintains affiliate program, Edward Heppenstal  
was invited to come to Middle East College to serve as affiliate  
professor. (MED 68/59) Since he is not able to accept, and on recom-  
mendation of the administration of Loma Linda University, it was

VOTED, To accept the recommendation of Loma Linda Univer-  
sity and pass on to the General Conference the call of Middle East  
College for Miss G. H. King to serve as affiliate professor, in  
harmony with the provisions of the affiliation agreement.

RLJ

68/127 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- CALL FOR NASIM KHOURY

VOTED, To pass on to the Lebanon Section the call of  
Middle East College for Nasim Khoury to teach in Middle East Secondary  
School.

RLJ

68/128 TRAVEL OUTSIDE DIVISION -- PERMISSIONS

VOTED, To grant permission for the following workers  
to take their vacations outside the Division territory:

Ahed Samaan  
Ibrahim Hanna  
Boutros Ghazal

RLJ

68/129 ITINERARIES

VOTED, To approve itineraries, as follows:

R. L. Jacobs	June 24 - June 26	Iraq
	September 30 - October 17	Pre-Council
		Autumn Council
George Khoury	June 16 - July 2	Iran
	July 3 - July 9	Beirut
	July 15 - July 22	Syria
	August 1 - September 15	Egypt
	September 22 - December 15	Turkey
H. C. Lamp	June 16 - June 29	Vacation
	September 15 - October 15	Iran
L. C. Miller	May 8 - May 12	Jordan
	June 20 - June 29	Iran
	July 3 - July 9	Beirut
	To be arranged	Cyprus
	August 1 - August 11	Turkey
	August 12 - August 26	Vacation
	September 15 - October 15	Iran
R. C. Mills	August 30 - September 28	Vacation
	September 29 - October 17	Pre-Council
		Autumn Council
Manoug Nazirian	August 15 - September 10	MV Camps - Lebanon
	July 11 - July 30	Egypt
	September 15 - October 6	Vacation
F. C. Webster	May 23 - May 26	Cyprus
	June 11 - June 17	Egypt
	June 27 - July 3	Iran
	August 1 - August 10	Turkey
	August 11 - August 18	Vacation
	September 30 - October 7	Washington
	October 9 - October 15	Autumn Council
	October 16 - October 23	Andrews and Loma Linda Universities
	October 30	Beirut
		(14-day vacation in U.S.A.)

68/130 MISSIONARY BOOK OF THE YEAR -- 1969

In harmony with the recommendation of the Middle East Press,  
it was

VOTED, 1. To approve the publication of Christ Object Lessons and Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing in one volume to be used as the Arabic Missionary Book of the Year for 1969.

2. That the Ellen G. White Estate be requested to assist in the cost of producing this volume, it being understood that the Middle East Division will match this amount, and that the difference between the cost and income of this project be shared as follows:

Middle East Division	75%
Local Section	25%

3. That an edition of 3,000 copies be published to be assigned as follows:

Missionary Book of the Year	2,500	
To be stocked by Middle East Press	500	RCM

68/131 MIDDLE EAST PRESS -- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR OFFSET PRESS

VOTED, To pass on to the General Conference the request of the Middle East Press for \$7,000 from the Publishing House Expansion Fund to be applied toward the installation of an offset press, it being understood that this amount will be matched by funds appropriated from the Middle East Division. FCW

68/132 MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE -- CALL FOR PROFESSOR IN ISLAMICS

WHEREAS it is considered desirable for Middle East College to offer a minor in Islamics in the preparation of ministerial workers, it was

VOTED, To pass on to the General Conference the call of Middle East College for a professor in Islamics suggesting the name of P. Sitompul from Indonesia. RLJ

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Midyear Committee  
May 17, 1968

68/133     HENRI MELKI -- MODIFICATION OF STUDY PLAN

Henri Melki is presently studying in Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. toward a Master's degree in Arabic. Since Loma Linda University strongly urges that our Division of Languages and Literature be headed by one with a Doctor's Degree, and since the Lebanese Department of Education has repeatedly insisted that we strengthen this phase of our curriculum, on recommendation of Middle East College, it was

VOTED, To modify the study plan for Henri Melki and that he be authorized to extend his graduate study program for an additional period of approximately 18 months in order for him to obtain his doctorate in Linguistics.

RLJ

68/134     BEIRUT PHYSIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT -- REQUEST

WHEREAS, the Beirut Physiotherapy Clinic is being discontinued, and

WHEREAS, the Benghazi Hospital is in need of additional equipment for their expanding physiotherapy clinic, it was

VOTED, To pass on to the Lebanon Section the request of the Benghazi Hospital that the equipment from the Beirut Physiotherapy Clinic be made available to them.

RLJ

Adjourned at 12:15 P.M. sine die.

F. C. Webster, Chairman  
R. L. Jacobs, Secretary