



MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER



BEIRUT, LEBANON,

APRIL, 1949

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER

SABBATH, MAY 14, 1949

After studying the needs and dangers as well as the great opportunities and privileges facing the church of God in all the world, the General Conference Committee has asked our people everywhere to make sabbath, May 14, a day of special prayer.

It was in 1943 that the last general call to prayer was sent out. On October 30 of that year special intercession was made in behalf of our interned missionaries. Scores of our workers were being held as civilian prisoners of war in the Philippines, Japan, Java, China, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Our foreign-mission program was in great jeopardy. Havoc and desolation were on every hand. Systematic starvation faced many of our interned workers. The enemy of righteousness threatened to triumph.

Then the Lord heard the earnest prayers of His people. A great deliverance was wrought, and the way again opened for His cause to go forward. Schools, sanitariums, publishing houses, churches, mission stations, and homes that lay in ruins have been restored. Mission vessels of the South Seas, destroyed by enemy action, have been replaced and are now in service. In lands recently ravaged by war, thousands now listen eagerly to the message for these last days. The most encouraging progress is seen. Since that October day in 1945 more than a thousand new missionaries have been sent out to the fields beyond, and a hundred thousand believers have been added to the church.

But the problems of the church continue

to be beyond any human solution. Conditions are still critical, and the world is far from being at peace. The times are serious. The burden of an unfinished task, with greatly increased difficulties in many lands, call every Seventh-day Adventist to seek the Lord.

In fulfilling the Master's command to go and teach all nations, our problem is not one of transportation, for the advancement of science has made it possible to travel rapidly from place to place, and to compass the globe in a few hours. Neither is it a problem of communication, for the printing press, the radio, and now television, are fast removing these difficulties. The day is almost here when it will be entirely practicable to broadcast one message and have it heard throughout the entire world. We are no longer seriously restricted by the vastness of the earth or the density of its population. Yet in spite of these modern inventions and discoveries, ordained by providence to help preach present truth, the perplexities and hindrances confronting our leadership have never been more numerous or more serious than they are today.

Political unrest hampers the movements of our workers and brings oppression and persecution upon our people. In one country more than half our membership is forcibly deprived of communication with the outside world, and in others it is positively perilous for anyone to receive a letter from abroad. Civil wars scatter our congregations and



destroy our institutions. Revolutions distract the orderly conduct of our work. Storm and flood, strikes, boycotts, and lockouts upset business and embarrass the treasury. International finance is truly in a frenzy. The old standards of value have been discarded and the new ones are uncertain and changeable. The transfer of funds is restricted, greatly complicating the problem of supporting our missionaries. The dominance of the state church in a score of lands means anything from a grudging toleration to a reign of violence and terror, so far as Seventh-day Adventists are concerned.

Worldly and pagan philosophies, strange ideologies, both social and political, by their subtle and satanic reasoning, beguile the minds of men and lure them into the maze of doubt and the quicksands of unbelief. Eyes are dazzled by the sight of worldly gain. The cares and follies of the day choke out the Word of God. The love of many has waxed cold.

At the same time the reports from every land indicate that the hearts of thousands are being opened to consider the message for these times. There is a hunger and a thirst for

(continued on page 7)

"SOLDIERS of CHRIST, ARISE!"

By C. C. CRIDER

President, Iran Mission.

Summary of talk given at the Union Annual Meetings

Sometimes we have people come to us to make observations something like the following: Why is it that before I was a Seventh Day Adventist I had a comparatively easy life, but after I became a Christian it seems that all the forces of Satan are directed against me. Now that observation is absolutely true! Those who try to live Godly lives must suffer persecution. It is also true that they will have trials that they have never dreamed of before because they are conducting a warfare against sin and Satan. In the twelfth chapter of Revelation we have this warfare brought to view. We see the Great Dragon cast out into the earth. We see the church under the symbol of a woman fleeing from place to place for refuge.

We understand as we study this chapter that instead of the war getting easier and easier it gets more fierce up to the very last moment of the conflict. When we join the army of God, when we become members of God's church, we expect to fight! Now if we are going to gain the victory in this battle we must be just as alert, just as watchful, just as ready, as any soldier who joins an army here on this earth. When an army moves into camp it posts out sentries. We read in I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour". This is a very apt illustration. Satan knows that he has but a short time. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth he hath but a short time." Satan was defeated in heaven by Christ. He has been defeated upon this earth by Christ. He knows what the end of the picture will be for him and the illustration describing him as a wrathful beast who has been cornered and knows that his time is short in this world is a very apt one. It describes the fury of the attack that he directs against the seed of the woman, especially with those who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus".

This warfare in which we are engaged is unrestricted warfare. There is no mercy, there is no sympathy, there is no consideration given to us by the enemy if we are defeated. Take, for example, a person who has become a slave to the opium habit. An opium addict once said to me: "Opium robs

me of every quality that makes me a man. I have no courage; I have no honesty; I will steal; I will lie; I will do anything to get this opium. I am not able to walk over the mountains like my neighbors". Now the only hope that you and I have in this battle which we are directing against Satan is to allow the One who defeated him in the heavens, the One who defeated him at the cross, to take charge of our lives.

When an army goes into battle, its chances of success are largely dependent upon the ones who are leading that army. If they have a commander in whom they have strength and confidence they will march calmly and firmly into battle and defeat the enemy. If they have a commander whom they cannot trust, then they are defeated before they start. I thank the Lord that we have a commander in the Lord Jesus. He can draw a plan of battle for your life and for mine that will help us defeat the enemy in our hearts. It is only through His strength and His grace that we shall be able to conquer at all!

An army does not argue with a commander. It does not disobey his rule. It does not refuse to go where he directs. The commander of the army has the power and the right to direct any individual soldier into any situation that he feels is best. So as good soldiers, as good followers of the Lord Jesus, we must be ready to go anywhere our commander directs.

Down in the mountains of Kirkistan, there stands a castle named after a slave of one of the kings of Iran! The tradition is that the slave was once called into the presence of his master and the king said, "I want you to go down and build a castle that cannot be defeated by anyone that cannot be starved out, that cannot be broken into by a thief, in other words a castle that is absolutely unrefinable. So the slave said, "I hear, and your command will be obeyed." He spent thirteen years building this castle. The king inquired from time to time how the castle was coming. The answer always came: "We are building it as you have commanded; it will be finished, and when it is done it will be as you desire". Finally, word reached the king that the castle was finished. The next word that arrived was that the slave had raised the country in revolt against the king. The king was furious. He took one of his army commanders, gave him a battalion of soldiers, and sent him against the castle. He was defeated miserably. He sent the second regiment. This time he

gathered more people and appointed his most able commander. They attacked the castle, laid it under siege for a long time, and in time he too was defeated. In a rage the king gathered together all the soldiers that he had in his command, placing himself at the head of the army. He made his way there; He besieged the place for a year and six months. He tried repeatedly to take it by storm, by strategy, by every means that he could think of. Finally the king was forced to admit defeat. He gathered the the battered remnants of his army and made his way back toward the capital. On his way suddenly there appeared in front of him the slave. Around his neck was hung his sword by a string, and he said, "Let me be your sacrifice, but before you take my life let me explain something". The king gave him permission to speak. He said, "Sir, you commanded me to build you a castle that could not be defeated, either by attack, or by strategy. I have not only built you a castle, but I have proved to you that it is what you want".

I think that our lives must be something like that. We are not only fighting a warfare but we are witnesses and a spectacle to those about us. Their eyes are ever upon us, I think that the statement which the apostle Paul used when he had finished his work upon this earth is one that would make any worker proud if he could use it. He said, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course." There was a crown of life waiting for him, and thank God not for him alone, but for all of us who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus. So though we may be discouraged sometimes in our battles in the Middle East, we know that we are following the commander that has never known defeat. I present this to you this morning for your encouragement.

IRAN MISSION

Springtime brings new things, new beginnings, new opportunities!

Here are some of the new things it has brought to the Iran Mission:

A new address: The Mission has rented a post office box. Our address will now be *Box 624, Tehran, Iran.*

A new effort in evangelism has been undertaken by Elders Kubrock and Beitza-khar. Meetings are being held four nights a week in the Naderi Avenue church in the Russian language. On Friday evening there is a translation into Farsee.

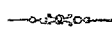
A new Chevrolet panel truck in perfect running order. We hope that as it counts off the kilometers along the roads of Iran, in either medical work or evan-

(Continued on page 5)

THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE

SOURCE of STRENGTH AND

SECRET of SUCCESS



By FARAG ASAAD



On receiving a call to sit with the Union Committee Meeting on January 19, 1949, I first hesitated, questioning whether my presence was worthwhile. Would it not be more economical to the Mission if cost of transportation were saved? While these thoughts were running through my mind, my passport was lost after its validity had been extended. I thought this was a sign that I should not go. But somehow I was persuaded to ask for a substitute passport which I thought would be impossible to obtain before the time of the meeting. In a fortnight the substitute was in hand, two days before the date fixed for the committee meeting to convene.

To sit with the Union Committee and make plans for the finishing of God's work before Jesus comes is inspiring. I have been deeply impressed with the way these meetings have been conducted. I have said to myself, "Yes my attendance is well worth while, at least for me."

What impressed me most in discussing the budgets was their inadequacy to meet the demands of the various phases of the work. I asked myself, the question What means did Christ give to the early church in order for them to evangelize the whole earth? The answer came: The One who gave the gospel commission declared that to Him was given all power in heaven and would be with them until the end of time. Christ gave them power, the power of money, power of transportation, power to preserve them from all harm and danger, power to do miracles in His name, to cast out devils and speak in other tongues, and above all the power of the spirit so as to spread the saving truth. Poor and destitute as they were, He gave them no cheques figuring hundreds and thousands of Pounds with which to carry out His bidding. He gave them no cars and planes. He gave them only "His Presence."

While we know and believe these things, we are prone to trust in money as a means to do the work Jesus has given to us. We

tend to overlook the fact that Heaven with all its resources are within our reach if we only claim the fulfilment of God's promises. The first church fearlessly carried out their commission. We find that all resources necessary, money and property were brought to the disciples, and they lacked nothing. As for transportation, we see Philip carried on the wings of angels to where he was needed for the guidance and baptism of the Eunuch of Ethiopia.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that we are called of God for the purpose of preaching the Gospel. We believe that very soon Christ will come. We believe that sooner even than we imagine Christ will finish His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary. Immediately after this the powers of nature will be shaken and there will be great upheavals and catastrophes. Now is the time to plead with God for the power He has promised us. His promises are sure, It depends on us as to whether we really have on our hearts the burden of saving souls as had Nehemiah. This man had a real burden for saving his people and his city "Jerusalem". As soon as he heard sad news about his city, he went to God in fasting and prayer. Power and authority were freely given him.

In the past one person effected great changes. Note Joseph in his day, Daniel in his days, Esther in her days. May God help us all to be such persons in our days. We do not require more money, more means of transportation: we need a life of consecration that has a burden for saving souls.

A RULE

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

EGYPT MISSION

Last year the Heliopolis Sabbath School raised approximately eighty Egyptian pounds for the Investment offering. A few weeks ago the Investment campaign for 1949 began in Heliopolis. May the Lord richly bless this Sabbath School as it endeavors to raise funds for the advancement of His cause.

* * *

The Assiut church is now locating itself in a larger place which is being refinished and refitted for its dedication which will take place in the very near future. We are happy to see the work grow in this large center, and feel that the new meeting place will add much to the esteem of our work in upper Egypt.

* * *

Pastor Wilson is holding a series of Revival services Sunday nights in the Heliopolis church. Pastor Zytkoskee will be holding a similar series of meetings in Assiut beginning May 1. A similar series of meetings later be held in Minia and Fayoum.

* * *

We have just finished a very encouraging week of devotion and prayer in Heliopolis. Services and prayer were conducted at the Adventist Junior Academy, Mataria Mercy Home in the late afternoon, and in the Auditorium each evening under the auspices of the Young People's Society.

* * *

The visit of Pastor E. E. Rønfelt to our field was deeply appreciated. His inspiration and guidance brought courage and renewed zeal to all.

* * *

It was a pleasure to see Elder Cummins for a few hours in Cairo and to have him speak to the Heliopolis church.

* * *

Pastor Lindsay the president of the Northern Europe Division stopped for a day in Cairo on his way home from his visit to Ethiopia. He brought to us some thrilling news of the progress of the work in his division.

* * *

Brother Wines reports a continued spirit of good fellowship and devotion after the recent spring week of prayer conducted by Pastor Branson. A number of the students are being prepared for baptism. Several of the students are now spending their free time giving Bible studies and holding branch Sabbath Schools in the nearby villages.

* * *

A number of the Arabic newspapers in Cairo have been publishing excerpts from our literature on Daniel, and the pamphlet on the Palestine question which Pastor Wilson has written.

A.G.Z.

WORKING AMONG THE MILLIONS OF IRAN

REPORTED BY ELDER C. C. CRIDER

Verbatim report of talk given at the
Union Annual Meetings

I must first of all bring you the greetings of our people in Iran, who now number about 315. They are scattered in places such as Gurgon, Teheran, Shiraz, Isphahan, Arak, Abadan, Kermanshah, Pahlavi, and various other scattered places. We have about 14 scattered members around Abadan. We have one or two in Bandersaree. We have a number who are in the Raziah district. Not all our people have the privilege of attending our church group each Sabbath or of listening to a minister. About all they get are the Sabbath School lessons which we send out to them, and the little mission bulletin which we call the *Iran Advance*, which we try to place in the hands of every member who is on our books.

SUMMER MEETINGS

In discussing our work in Iran, I will begin with the summer meetings. Actually, they are the high point of our spiritual experience in Iran each year, because it gives us the opportunity to find a number of our people and nearly all our workers in one place and at one time. We have the privilege of spiritual fellowship and counsel which we do not find at any other time in the year.

Our summer meeting this year was especially beneficial because we had the help of a number of our Union brethren. I think that it is only once before that we have had any of them with us. Elder Branson was with us two years ago. We not only had him back with us again this year, but we had both of the Elders Keough with us. We certainly appreciated the help and the inspiration they gave us.

There is one thing about that summer meeting that I would like to call to your attention especially, and that is the fact that we had a baptism. Now this baptism was not at all outstanding for its numbers. I am sure that it would be exceeded in any other mission. But there is one thing about it that I know will interest you: there were representatives in that group of nearly every one of the various religions, faiths and sects which we find in these Middle East countries. There were Moslems, there were Jews, there were Gregorians, there were Greek and Roman Catholics, and there were Assyrians.

FILM STRIPS IN PHARSEE

Now what are we trying to do for our evangelists? Are we trying to place in their hands what they can use to make them more

efficient? I am very glad that our Union brethren last year gave us a small appropriation to help us to prepare filmstrips in Pharsee. We have two of those lessons finished. We have been translating the set prepared by Elder Schuler.

Brother Oster is using them down in Shiraz at the present time. We hope that by the end of this coming year we can place in the hands of our evangelists a set of filmstrips in their own language which they can use to preach the message in Iran.

VOICE OF PROPHECY LESSON

Also out of those summer meetings came what we consider an advance step. As we listened with a good deal of interest to the story of Elder Keough and his Voice of Prophecy, and through the inspiration of the other brethren who came, our local committee voted to launch the Voice of Prophecy in Pharsee. We asked Brother Kenneth Oster, who had been studying for several years past, and who, by the way, was born in the country and knew quite a bit of the language before he ever began his study in Shiraz, to prepare 18 lessons in the Voice of Prophecy, and I am very happy to announce to you this afternoon, that 13 of those lessons are ready. We must now type them and place them in the hands of the printers, and we hope that before the end of 1949, we will have at least 18 of those lessons going out to the people.

INGATHERING GOALS REACHED

Iran is one of the few missions in this Union which has been reaching its Ingathering goal year after year. And this year, they exceeded the goal by Rials 20,000.

VILLAGE WORK

We decided to go into the village work this year. There are very few other large cities in Iran; everywhere there are small villages. Many of them can only be reached by donkeys. Some of them we can reach by the ambulance. Practically nothing has been done in these villages. The time has come to launch out and see what can be done in them. The committee gave me permission to go out and see what I could do this summer in that line. I had associated with me, a young Moslem boy, that is, he was a Moslem; he is now a Christian. It proved to me that it is possible to go out and work in the villages. We had been told by people who live in the country that it could not be done. Not only would it be impossible to live there, but your life would be in danger if you were to go out. Now I must confess that I have never

received kinder treatment in all my life than I did from those simple hearted village people. They do not have much, but what they do have is yours. They are glad to divide it with you, and no one offered us the least physical violence of any kind. We spoke to them freely. They knew we were Christians. We gathered groups about us in the evenings in the homes, and in the homes of the village chiefs as well, and they listened very, very politely and almost enthusiastically to everything that we had to say to them. And these were strictly Moslem villages. Some of them, for example, were right behind the Elburz mountains, where they are snowbound for 9 months out of the year. It is only 3 months of the year that they can move about. Some of them were so primitive that they did not even recognize a picture. They had never seen one. I took a picture roll and I turned a page, and I said, "This is Abraham." "Oh yes, that is Abraham. What is that?" "Well, that is what you have sitting over there on the fire: A teapot." They didn't even recognize the teapot when they saw it in the picture. They had never seen pictures. And I had to point out everything and say, "That is a donkey; that is a tree." We hardly expected to find that. We left some Gospel cards. Those people cannot read or write. The only one who makes any profession of reading at all is the village mullah, the chief.

IRAN TRAINING SCHOOL

Brother Boynton has a fine school in Teheran with a fine group of students. They are doing well with the limited facilities that they have. By the way, Iran is the only field that remains without an organized training school or a place to put one in. We want to make our appeal as strong as we can. In addition to the Training School in Teheran, we have the church school, which now has an enrolment of 52. We also have a church school in Gurgon, near the Caspian Sea. That is the sum total of all the educational facilities that we have in Iran. I think that you will agree with me that that is very meager. We want to see it develop and expand just as rapidly as we can.

OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

There is a colporteur with the British and Foreign Bible Society, who was visiting with one of his relatives in Teheran one day. The relative was not a religious man, and made no pretense of religion. Now the Colporteur had the occasion to visit the family about mealtime. They invited him to stop and eat lunch with them, so he consented, and as they sat down to eat, he noticed two children insisted upon bowing their heads and one of them said the grace. The colporteur was surprised. He knew that it was not a religious family and so he immediately asked, "Well now, how did this happen? How did these children learn to say grace?" The

father said, "That is not all they do. One morning I was standing in my room and I noticed the boy standing over in the corner with his face to the wall muttering to himself, and I went up and I said something to him and he didn't answer, so I took him by the shoulder and I shook him and presently he turned around and he said, 'Father, can't you let me say my prayers? I want to ask Jesus to protect me today so that I will not fall into any harm nor accident, so that I will not sin against Him?'"

The colporteur asked, "Where are children learning this?" and the reply was, "Down in that Adventist school."

The colporteur said that the very next day he went around to see the principal, and said, "Do you have any room in this school for my children?" He was told, "Yes, we will try to make room for them."

He had his children in another mission school, but he took them and put them in ours. He wanted his youngsters to be under that kind of an influence. Things like that, you know, are very valuable to a mission. I might add that this gentleman came to church himself every Sabbath, and his children came to church every Sabbath.

DORCAS SOCIETIES

We have one or two very strong Dorcas societies in Iran. In Arak they are busy knitting sweaters, bootees and other things for babies, and they are doing the same thing down in Isphahan. Mrs. Hargreaves is leading out down there. She is a very capable woman, and very much interested in this type of work. In Teheran, we have three church groups and they have combined to do this type of work. The ladies put on a Dorcas sale at Christmas and sold over \$130 worth of things which they had made and they also sold about \$50 worth of food which they had prepared. Mrs. Branson had a part in starting that group two years ago. The society want us to start an orphan's home. They are willing to provide the youngsters with clothing, and they think that we can get the business men in town to donate the money.

CLINIC IN ISPHAHAN

Dr. Hargreaves moved down to Isphahan the first of last year, and while his practice is not growing quite as fast as he had hoped, still he is having some very good contacts there. He told me when he was in Teheran just a few days ago, that he has patients coming from as far as Kerman. That is a long way to go to have one's eyes treated. He says that some of these people are fulfilling an ambition that "I have had for many, many years in my life. I have spent 25 or 30 years in Iran, Very, very seldom have I ever had a Moslem come to me and

say, "What must I do, what must I study to be a Christian?" They just don't, but these people who are coming now, are actually inquiring of him, "Doctor, what must I do to be a Christian? What shall I do to join your church?" I can testify to that personally. Just before leaving to come over here, two young men said they wanted to see me. I took them into the office. One said, "We want to be members of your church." "Where did you hear about our church?" "We were down town one night and we heard Pastor Salakhian. "Have you ever read the Bible?" I asked, and they replied, "Yes, we have read portions of the Scriptures that the Bible man gave us." One of these young men works in the post office, the other one works in the railway station. And so I was very happy to make an appointment for them to have studies,

ARAK HOSPITAL

We have the Arak Hospital in Sultanabad. At the present time we don't have a doctor there but I want to point out to you the fact that this is the center of a populous village area. You know, when you fight a battle, you find a point that projects into the enemy's territory, don't you? And Sultanabad is surely that. At the present time that little town of 50,000 inhabitants has not a single physician. There are more than 200,000 people living in its neighbourhood. None have the advantage of any medical help at this time of the year, because the doctors who live there go to Teheran for the winter. We certainly hope that our work will be able to progress in that area, if not through the medical institution, then by some other means.

CALAMITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The people in the provinces of Iran this winter have passed through one of the most dreadful experiences that they have ever been called upon to face. In the province of Khorasan, an earthquake killed at least 600 people and left from 5 to 10,000 people homeless. I have spoken to eyewitnesses who have been up there. We gathered what we could and sent it with some of the other organizations. There were places where there was not a single house left in any village. The earth split apart.

As if the earthquake was not enough, then we had a flood in the Isphahan valley. The Isphahan valley is a source of a good deal of our food. So these poor people are not only left homeless but it destroyed their food.

We have had two heavy snows. These snows, according to the report of the British Broadcasting system left no less than 42,000 people without homes. The weight of snow on the roofs caused them to collapse.

WORK AMONG MOSLEMS

I am glad that we can bring you a very encouraging report on the work among Moslems in Iran. We are seeing things that are startling workers who have lived there for a number of years. Things are opening up in a new way in the country of Iran. The people are not as fanatical as they are in some other sections. I think of youngsters like Morovati who went out with me last summer. He is the son of a wealthy family, he has given up everything that he has. His father is an officer in the army. He has a chance to join the army and live a fairly easy life. Army officers are given a home and a servant, pay and all the soldiers they want to help them besides, so their life is not too bad if there isn't any war. This boy has left all that. I think of the boy by the name of Joel, who lived by the Caspian Sea. Another is in Shiraz. I think of a young officer in the gendarmerie. I think of Miss Rayah, a young Turkish-Russian girl who is now in our Training School studying.

URGENT NEEDS

I do not see, brethren and sisters, how we can discharge our responsibility to these lands if we neglect the people who are living in the villages. That means of course that we have to have a Training School to prepare workers. We have to have some place where these young people can come out of these villages to learn this message and accept it, and go back into their own areas again as teachers and as preachers. I think of that man who appeared before Paul at night as he was sleeping, and who said, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." I feel like saying, "Come over to Iran and help us." We are enjoying freedom now in a way that we have never enjoyed it before. We can preach freely. We can speak freely anywhere we care to go, even in the most fanatical places.

IRAN MISSION (Continued from page 2)

gelistic work, much good may be accomplished for the cause of Christ.

A new project near completion: Last arrangements are being made to have the first eighteen of our Voice of Property lessons printed. They should be all ready for use before very long.

A new wall for the Mission garden, or perhaps we should say an additional wall. The former wall had always been very low, and the additional meter adds a few arches and trellises here and there. With the addition of two large lights at the posts of the front gate, and a few arches and trellise here and there with vines growing over them, we think that our Mission will be even more attractive than it is at present.

Jean Crider.

KABUL AND BEYOND!

MISSIONARIES K. OSTER & G. C. WINSLOW
VISIT IN THE AFGHAN CAPITAL & PURSUE
THEIR PIONEER TRIP STILL FURTHER.
FOURTH INSTALMENT of *PUSHTU PUSH*.

The bus has stopped at the customs house, the end of the line, so we take a gades to the one and only hotel in the entire city, the Kabul Hotel. Prices here are twice as high as in Herat, so we can merely leave our baggage and start a hunt for some kind of quarters that are cheaper. Brother Winslow finally returns to the hotel to try and contact his friend, Colonel Kent, who is the American military attache here in Kabul, while Brother Oster, who knows the language like a native Iranian, continues the search for quarters. After several hours, we meet again at the hotel and compare notes, notes which reveal again how God leads and cares for His own. We have made friends in several important people who are later to be of great help to us in our later journeyings. We meet a man who is willing, though he has never seen us before, to let us use the temporarily vacated apartment of one of Kabul's leading doctors, who is at this time in New York. And so we move into lodgings which provide us with expense-free accommodation for all the time we shall be in Kabul. Another of our new friends had already offered us the hospitality of his hotel room. He, too, had never seen us before. A dinner invitation in the evening with new friends of the construction company brings us other new friends and much information about this city, which is a mixture of orient and occident.

In the morning we renew our Meshed friendship with the Kents. Colonel Kent is later to prove of help to us in getting visas. Over at the Iranian Embassy we meet another Meshed friend, who is the guest of the Iranian Ambassador, having brought his son with him in his car from Iran. He helps us get our re-entry visas for Iran even before we have completed our outgoing trip to Pakistan and possibly India. Our Afghan transit visa has another week to run, with no assurance of getting another. Should we go on to Pakistan, at least to our furthest north mission station in Rawalpindi, and take the chance on being refused another transit visa through Afghanistan and being forced to return directly to southern Iran by way of Paluchastan? No, that might defeat the very purpose of our trip, which certainly is not just to visit our mission in "Pindi". Here our friendship with Colonel Kent obtains the necessary note from the American Consul that obtains us a second transit visa for our return through this country. To understand the providence of this, one must know that a second transit visa is almost

never granted until the first is used up, and then it must be obtained at the border city before reentering the country.

We have time for a trip to the palatial British Embassy outside the city where we meet other visiting Meshed friends, this time a Presbyterian missionary doctor and his wife. Now we find out that we might get to the car of our Meshed merchant friend back to Meshed, for his partner is very ill and might have to be flown back to Iran, leaving the car to be brought back out by us. This would be a great saving in time and money. We shall know when we return from Pakistan. Our efforts to get cholera shots for our trip south are fruitless. We hope that we do not run into India's endemic cholera. There is cholera in Lahore. We meet the British Ambassador, a very influential figure in the Afghan capital.

Thursday we make a visit to the brother of a formal liberal king of this country. He is a young chap who was educated at the missionary school in Teheran at the same time that Brother Oster was in attendance there as a boy. So, as with our Meshed merchant friend, with Brother Oster it was a renewal of old schoolday friendships.

One of our new friends, the Afghan-Pakistan representative for Goodyear Rubber Company, is of help to us in our plans for our trip into Pakistan. The bus is supposed to leave for Pakistan on Sabbath, but he arranges a special trip for Friday, for which we are very grateful.

Friday morning, and we are on our way south. Out in the middle of the barren hills we stop at a place called Soroby, actually only a lunch stop for the bus and nothing more. Out here in the wilderness on the brow of a bluff overlooking the meandering Rabul River, is the most modern little hotel we have seen in the Middle East. It is a new one with all the latest improvements and fixtures of a Western metropolitan hotel. The hotels in this country are state-owned and are generally above the average for this part of the world, but expensive. Two miles up the valley is a road camp for the American construction company. A truck stops and we become acquainted with one of the men who invites us to have dinner at the camp. But our bus driver insists that we do not have time. So we reluctantly decline and eat the sorry meal provided for a stiff price at the hotel. Out here one eats with one hand and chases flies with the other, and what persistent

flies. When the announced departure comes we discover, to our disgust, that the driver and most of the passengers are busy taking their afternoon siesta. So we go to the camp anyway, grumbling at having missed a nice dinner because of having been gullible enough to believe an oriental bus driver. When we are driven back to the hotel from camp, there is great concern because they have had to wait for us. A few smiles and pleasant words and once again we are a happy busload headed south.

Jalalabad. It is late Friday afternoon. Brother Oster sees to the unloading of our luggage while Brother Winslow seeks out the only two Seventh-day Adventists in the country, who are a doctor team employed by the construction company.

"How do you do. Is this Mrs. Weber?" is the inquiry when a pleasant little lady answers the knock on her door.

"Yes.....?"

"Well, I am Mr. Winslow, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary, and Mr. Oster my co-worker and co-traveller will be here in a moment. We are from Iran."

Mrs. Weber's mouth drops open as she exclaims in surprise, "Well, how in the world did you get here. Come in, come in. Harry is at the generator and will be in in a few moments. He will be as surprised and as happy to see you as I am. What a blessed Sabbath this is going to be!"

And so we are welcomed into the only S.D.A. home in that whole country. Quick baths and a fine Adventist supper prepare us just in time for the Sabbath. Evening worship here in Afghanistan, and in a truly Christian home. These people are living here in the only capacity in which they were able at that time to enter the country, hoping that by quiet Christian witness in daily living to plant the seeds of truth in this long-closed land of fanatical Muslims. (To be continued)



The Drs. Weber

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER

(continued from page 1)

truth. Large harvests are being gathered in Catholic territories. In Moslem fields there are signs that the light is breaking. In Buddhist countries, where progress has been painfully slow for many years, there is an awakening, particularly in Japan, now the land of that great opportunity for the Christian missionary, the greatest since Pentecost, as General MacArthur calls it. India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Africa, in spite of civil strife and disorder in some localities, present to us a door more widely open to the gospel than ever before.

All this is just what the prophets have long foretold. All this is what the church has been taught to expect. All this is strong evidence that the day of the Lord is near. All this is a mighty call to prayer. The sure word of prophecy which has lighted the way of the remnant people since the midnight cry of 1844 shines today upon events which are bringing the final fulfillment of all that the prophets have spoken.

The shortness of time and the greatness of the work form a challenge that no human plans can meet. Our human resources are utterly unable to measure up to the situation. Of ourselves we can neither enter the "great door and effectual" that has been opened before us, nor cope with the "many adversaries" that seek to compass our ruin.

Our hope is in God. He has always wrought for His people in their greatest extremity. "The designs of wicked men, the enemies of the church, are subject to His power and overruling providence. He can move upon the hearts of statesmen; the wrath of the turbulent and disaffected, the haters of God, His truth, and His people, can be turned aside, even as the rivers of water are turned, if He orders it thus. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep,—the same infinite Creator will work in

behalf of His people if they call upon Him in faith. He will restrain the forces of darkness, until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for the conflict."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 452, 453.

"The people whom God has made the depositaries of His law are not to permit their light to be hidden. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the earth. Obstacles must be met and surmounted. A great work is to be done, and this work has been intrusted to those who know the truth. They should make mighty intercession with God for help now. The Spirit of Christ must be diffused in their own hearts. The Spirit of Christ must be poured out upon them, and they must be making ready to stand in the Judgment. While they are consecrating themselves to God, a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and its light will find access to many hearts. We must sleep no longer on Satan's enchanted ground, but call into requisition all our resources, and avail ourselves of every facility with which Providence has furnished us. The last warning is to be proclaimed before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings; and the promise is given, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'"—*Ibid.*, p. 454.

This is the hour of opportunity. Now, while Jesus lingers in the sanctuary above, while probation waits, and before the winds of strife are released to blow in all their fury, what a privilege it is to mingle our prayers with those of the remnant church of Christ in all the world. Let us ask God to renew His covenant in each one of our hearts as we humble ourselves before Him. Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers, to pour upon His people the spirit of liberality and self-denial, to stay the forces of destruction until the gospel fruitage of every nation and tongue may be gathered in, and then in that soon-coming day when the sower and reaper shall rejoice together, to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

General Conference Committee.

Special musical numbers were arranged for some of the services, and they presented their appeal in beautiful song.

After each morning chapel service each one went to his prayer band to seek God further by talking with Him in prayer. The little chorus, which accompanied the theme of the week, and entitled, "Absolutely tender", could be heard floating down the halls from these groups gathered for prayer and meditation. It could also be heard echoing from many corners of the campus during the hours of work or play.

The Thursday evening service gave everyone an opportunity to declare in a public manner his desire to serve Christ, and many spoke their first testimony for God. On Friday evening all came close to the front to join in special prayer with Elder Zytkoske. The Sabbath service which closed the week of prayer drew all those listening to a new realization of the nearness of the Master's return. As the indications thicken that His return is imminent the admonition to "get ready" comes to every heart with greater seriousness.

God grant that the blessings and decisions of this week of prayer shall be a sure stepping-tone to our heavenly kingdom, and may those who are just starting along the Christian pathway find their help in the strong arm of God and in the encouraging assistance of their Christian brothers.

J.S.R.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

Spring Week of Prayer

The school family has just completed an excellent spiritual refreshing which came during the week of prayer from April 1-9.

Under the leadership of Elder A. G. Zytkoske, pastor of the Cairo and Heliopolis churches, the teachers and students were brought, by the power of the Holy Spirit, into a closer communion with God. Definite decisions were made for God by many of the students who are here at the college for

first time, as they pledged their lives to serve their Master; while the older ones renewed their consecration.

The theme of the week was a portion of Psalms 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God". The interesting and inspiring messages brought forward were clothed in such as, "the stillness of the night"; "the face of Jesus"; "the closed door"; "Walking with God"; "Wings". These daily portions served to search hearts and to direct attention to the great need of a higher and holier life with Christ.

MIDDLE EAST

MESSENGER

Official Organ of the

MIDDLE EAST MISSION OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

P.O.B. 1011, Beirut, Lebanon

E. L. BRANSON *President*

E. S. CUBLEY *Secretary-Treasurer*

G. ARTHUR KEOUGH *Editor*

Annual Subscription L. L. 5.00

All copy for publication in the MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER should be submitted through the mission or institution in which the contributor holds membership

LEBANON-SYRIA MISSION

In the Lebanon-Syria Mission a new town has been entered with the Advent Message. Tewfic Issa has moved from the Tartous area to Homs where he reports good initial contacts and an interest in our truths. Pastor Chafic Srour is helping him with meetings in the homes during the week.

Pastor Chafic Srour reports from Syria that a number of young men are showing a keen interest in the study of the Bible. Many of these young people attend the local secondary school and are from Moslem and Catholic homes. They have met considerable criticism and opposition from relatives and neighbors but have expressed themselves as being more interested in truth than tradition and they are determined to do what is right whatever it costs them. A young Moslem in the employ of the government has asked for the privilege of being a member with us. Another young Moslem of education and talent has written to say that he has found our doctrines according to truth and after further study he wants to join the church. This evidence of interest in the teachings of the Bible and determination to break the fetters of tradition in order to walk in the light of truth is certainly very encouraging.

FROM HERE & THERE

Word from various sources in the States indicates that our Middle East Students there are doing well in their studies. Abraham Mazlum will get his degree from La Sierra this June. Jacob Nashed graduates from Washington Missionary College. Khalil Yared was congratulated recently for doing an excellent job of being business manager of the *Lancastrian*, at Atlantic Union College. George Kipridakis continues to get good grades from Union College. Maher Basta was among the top ten percent of his class in the College of Medical Evangelists. Excellent reports come of the Kafrouny sisters, Georgette and Laurice, at Boulder Sanitarium. Wadie Farag graduates with a Master's degree from the Seminary and expects to join the Voice of Prophecy work in the Middle East. Bruce Branson graduates as a fully fledged doctor in June. And so the story goes on of Selim and Chafic Farag and George Arzoo in Emmanuel Missionary College; of Fuad Bolus, Edmond Chammes and Ghanem Majeed in Atlantic Union College; of Abraham Purhadi and Farid Srour in Washington Missionary College. We trust that those who have gone more recently will continue to hold high the standards set by their predecessors.

SABBATH SCHOOL NEWS

All the sabbath school reports for the quarter ending March 31 in the Lebanon-Syria Mission have now been received in the Union office. It is interesting to note the general progress made and the effort put forth by officers and members to achieve the sabbath school ideals. Honor Certificates have been presented as follows:

Certificate of Honor "A":

Beirut Armenian Church

Certificate of Honor "B":

Beirut Arabic Church

Beit Mery

Middle East College

Tartous

Certificate of Honor "C":

Bezac

Chekka

What do these Certificates of Honor mean? They mean that a sabbath school has achieved three, two, or one of the following objectives:

1. Every member of the church a member of sabbath school;
2. At least fifty percent of the members studying their lesson daily;
3. A ten percent increase in the mission offerings over the corresponding quarter of last year.

We extend to all our hearty congratulations and we pray that in the new quarter our sabbath schools will continue to pursue and achieve their objectives of soul-winning, strengthening the members in the truth, and generously supporting our world-wide mission programme.

SYF

Our schools do not limit themselves to the good they can do in the classroom. They invite the children to a special branch Sabbath School and encourage them to bring as many visitors as possible. Our school in Baghdad is no exception. Miss Fowzie Khalil, the Headmistress, writes to say of her branch Sabbath School that the attendance is increasing steadily. "Last Sabbath we had 180 persons present, among them Moslems, Jews, and Christians of various sects. All are trying to bring visitors with them. One Jewish girl brought 32 visitors with her". We cannot help but wonder whether this is not a world record. Miss Fowzia continues: "A girl in the second grade always brings visitors with her. Once she brought a woman with her six children." We feel sure that this work will mean blessing to the children and teachers and to all those who in this way have the opportunity to learn of our truth.

The school is also engaging in another

type of missionary work. As opportunities arise the children and teachers are visiting the sick and singing to them. We can imagine the sweet voices of the children and their smiles bringing pleasure and happiness to those who are confined to their beds for one reason or another.

NEW ARABIC MAGAZINE

With the authorization of the Union Committee some of the members in Baghdad have started publishing a monthly magazine in Arabic. It will contain articles for old and young on religious topics. We have already received in the Union Office the first two issues dated March and April. The general directorship is stated to be in the hands of Dr. Yousif Saaty and Mr. Ghanim Fargo. The editor is Pastor Philip Habib. Pastor Philip Habib writes to say that within six weeks of publication they have received five hundred subscriptions, and with this good start it looks as though the magazine will soon be self-supporting. We wish the "Blessed Hope"—the title of the new magazine, every success in its new venture and we trust that it will be a means of bringing the light of truth to many in the Middle East.

IRAN TRAINING SCHOOL

The Iran Training School has just sent in an order to the Union Missionary Volunteer Department for ten pins for each of the four classes below the Friend Class: Busy Bees, Sunbeams, Builders, Helping Hands. Also for twenty Friend pins; twenty Companion pins; and 3 Master Comrade pins. There is also a demand for fifteen official Missionary Volunteer Uniforms. It looks as though there is active progressive class work in Tehran. Excellent!

Some will remember that the students of the Iran Training School conducted a campaign for raising funds to buy a piano last year. We hear that enough was raised to buy two pianos and that the pianos have arrived at the port in Iran and will soon be delivered at the school.

Elder Boynton writes: "During the last few weeks the students and teachers of Iran Training School enjoyed two strenuous days of coasting and skiing on the snow covered mountains a few kilometers from Tehran. We all had a wonderful time and the students are now beginning to talk about making advanced plans for the annual spring picnic."

The Iran Training School also recently concluded their spring week of prayer. Local pastors took the morning meeting and Elder Boynton spoke in the evenings. The meetings were well attended by the young people and their friends and resulted in blessing to all. A baptismal class of eight has now been organized.