

APR - 8 1959

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER



VOLUME V

FIRST QUARTER 1956

NUMBER 1

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

By C. L. Torrey

Treasurer, General Conference

The darkness of the night is piercing; angry clouds hang low in the heavens. All is still save the sound of slowly laboring steps along the lonely road just outside Jerusalem. A man, appearing very old, totters along in the darkness, his face haggard and worn. He is muttering to himself and looking anxiously toward a light coming from the palace of the High Priest in the distance. In his hand is a bag containing thirty pieces of silver.

Suddenly he stumbles and sinks to one knee. The silver rattles in the bag and, as he hears the sound, he tries to thrust it from him; yet, indicative of his grasping nature, he holds onto the bag. He has lived for personal gain; he has developed a selfish, all-consuming desire to feel, to handle, and to hoard.

When the High Priest had at first given him the silver, his heart leaped with joy and he had put the money into his bag and gone out into the countryside to fondle it with all the love for money which his soul possessed. His face had lit up with a fiendish greed.

Hurrying off to the Garden of Gethsemane, he sits down, takes the money from the bag, and slowly lets it slip through his fingers again and again. Thirty pieces of silver had been the price of betraying an innocent Man.

Finally he sits back in deep thought. Suppose the Master, with whom he had associated for three and one-half years, and whom he was supposed to have loved, would not exert His power to save Himself, and were crucified—what

then? What thoughts are these! Why, of course, He would save Himself! The multitudes believed in this Man; He would set up His kingdom on earth, and they would not allow Him to be crucified. Had he not seen this Man heal the sick and raise the dead and do mighty miracles? Then, reasoning with himself, we hear him say, "I will use this money to relieve the poor, the widows, and the orphans, and, of course, I will be forgiven when I explain why I betrayed Him. He has never spoken a cross word to me. He has always been kind and considerate and loving—yes, He will forgive. Yet, deep down in his heart, he was not so sure.

He was near enough to hear the distant shouts of the soldiers outside the palace of the High Priest where were assembled men of the city—the chief priests and the elders bent upon destroying this very Man he claimed to love.

Suddenly there comes into his heart a dread fear. In consternation he jumps to his feet, still greedily grasping the bag with the thirty pieces of silver. As he hears the money tinkle, he trembles and starts running at full speed until he is out of breath. His eyes are fixed upon the light in the distance.

It is Judas who is coming along the lonely road, his face now white with terrible fear. On he rushes toward the light and, finally coming to the palace, he rushes in. What a sight meets his eye. The High Priest is seated in judgment. His henchmen are gathered a-

round him. There is a sneer upon the faces of these accusers and the High Priest is saying, "Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." John 11:50.

Judas, with a haunted look of astonishment and fear, rushes on toward the High Priest, throwing the bag with the thirty pieces of silver to the floor, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood." The priest mockingly replies, "What is that to us? See thou to that." Then, looking toward Jesus, Judas sees—not resentment or hatred—but eyes filled with pity and compassion and love.

Judas' guilt was so great he could endure it no longer and he rushed from the hall and went and hanged himself.

It might have been so different. He had not learned the meaning of Jesus' teaching when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And he not only threw away the privilege of working together with God for the winning of souls for the kingdom, but he forfeited the joy of the kingdom to come. Now he lay in a sinner's grave. He had run his earthly race and lost and what a race it was. Instead of looking unto Jesus, he had fastened his eyes upon the material things of this world and made them his god. In so doing, he lost the reward which could have been his.

The material things of this life do not bring true happiness or satisfaction. True happiness comes only from loving service to God and to our fellow men.



Elder R. R. Figuhr and Elder C. L. Torrey, President and Treasurer respectively, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, who recently attended the Middle East Division Fifth Annual Council which convened in Beirut from January 22 to 29, 1956.

ALL OUT FOR THE MASTER

By Wadie Farag
Home Missionary Secretary

Those of us who are privileged to be members of the Middle East Division are called upon by God to continue the work of Jesus, the apostles, and prophets right where they worked. Think of it—two thousand years ago Jesus labored in our Division as did Paul, Peter, James, John and other apostles. We, today, are their successors, assigned to labor in the same territory and to the same people who are just as dear to the heart of God as those who years ago received the ministry of our Master.

Today our Division is the baby Division of the world field. The Middle East Division was organized in 1950 a little over five years ago. Its membership is the least of any division yet it is right here that we find some of the most thrilling ingathering experiences in the remnant church.

In December of 1955 three of our workers spent four days in Kuwait, a sheikhdom to the South of Iraq, in an endeavor to raise funds for the Dar Es Salaam Hospital in Baghdad. In four days some forty thousand rupees were raised, or more than \$ 8000. Two individuals who had never met an Adventist before or even heard of the work of Adventists, gave more than \$ 200 each. Four days of solicitation

work in Kuwait brought in more money to further God's cause on earth than some of the annual appropriations given to entire mission fields within our territory. Then think of all that money being raised where we do not have one worker. Only under the blessing of God can such achievements be made.

We are told that Ingathering in the world field is the second largest financial resource for the onward progress of the message. It is only superseded by the Sabbath school offerings. Here in our division we are pleased to know that the East Mediterranean Union leads all other Union Missions throughout the world in per capita Sabbath school offerings and we thank God for such faithful, sacrificing members. This seems astounding yet in the same Union much more money is solicited by Ingathering in a few weeks from friends outside the church than is being given by Sabbath school members all during the year.

Ingathering, however, means more than mere financial benefits. It is the one church endeavor that engages more members in earnest work than any other plan known. Scores of members every year in this division discover for the first time the thrill of meeting the pub-

lic through the Ingathering work. These members distribute our literature and pamphlets as they go out soliciting and thus give the work of God invaluable publicity. One of our leaders recently said, "It has been during these campaigns that we have learned to know the value of good organization. Many have become experts in handling small and large groups of our membership and accomplish great things in a short time. It is through the Ingathering program we have learned the value of 100 percent participation. How easy it is to do a great work with the cooperation of all."

How thrilling it was to see all the Middle East College students with youthful enthusiasm take part in the Ingathering campaign. In just two days LL 2500 were solicited for medical, educational, and welfare work. In Iran tens of thousands of rials were solicited in only a few days. In Egypt several of the church members and workers reached the highest Minute Man goal known anywhere in the world. The goal they set was E£ 12. In Jordania three workers in about twenty hours almost doubled the mission goal by contacting business men in Amman only. The 1955 campaign in Lebanon was the most successful held in history when more than LL 12,000 were raised. Iraq for several years had led out in the Ingathering work in the East Mediterranean Union.

We thank God for the Ingathering campaigns that enable our church members to meet many of God's dear people who are not yet in His fold.

COMMUNION

Oh Father mine, there's peace divine
In resting in such arms as Thine,
Peace so hallowing and so sweet
The very angels with me meet.

Oh Father, there is so much more
For me to learn of that fair shore,
If I but spend the hours with Thee
To learn what Thou would'st say to me.

O heavenly Father, still this heart
That Satan has not one wee part;
Let good Obedience have full sway
Implicit Trust the right of way.

That every trace of doubt may flee
And Satan doth depart from me;
Then will the heavenly chorus swell
Then may my life, Thy glory, tell!

—A. Ruby Williams

FORWARD THROUGH EVANGELISM

By Geo. J. Appel

President

If Jesus were to meet us at the beginning of this new year just what would He desire to talk about? His parting words as He ascended on high nearly two thousand years ago were, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19, 20.

He had spent over three years in preparing a godly people to finish His work. He had also with individuals and a group of twelve perfected a ministry—leaders who were to be a part of the greatest evangelistic crusade the world had ever seen up to that time.

We are sure that heaven rejoiced with the believers in this movement when it was announced in the recent Fall Council, held at the General Conference headquarters, that our world membership had passed the one million mark and that today the work has grown to where there are believers and churches in countries representing 98.5 percent of the population of the world.

Here in the Middle East the growth has not been as rapid as in many of the other world Divisions but we thank God for a steady increase of precious jewels who have stepped out from under great trial and persecution to join the ranks of God's faithful people.

The new year of 1956 is before us. If Jesus were here in visible person, as He is here by the presence of the Holy Spirit, would He not impel us by the great commission to plan for the greatest advance that has yet been seen in God's work in these old Bible lands? Should we not think, talk, and pray in terms of completing the unfinished task?

The General Conference and Middle East Division have just passed the following resolution as a clarion call to Evangelism for 1956.

"CALL TO EVANGELISM

Sensing the importance of the hour to which we have come, and recognizing the unique opportunities presented for the proclamation of the everlasting gospel, and the tremendous possibilities for evangelism,

Resolved, That we call upon our ministers and lay members to enter into such relationship to the Lord and "the obedience of faith" as will prepare the church for the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

We also recommend, 1. That our mission leaders plan a program of evangelism with the object of reaching every individual soul within their territories, using every means possible for bringing the light of this message to the multitudes.

2. That our ministers and writers be urged to re-study the Bible and the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy concerning the presentation of the message in the clear setting of the great fundamentals of the Christian faith emphasizing our Lord's deity, His all-sufficient sacrifice, His resurrection, His heavenly ministry, and His return in glory."

We believe that God urges every worker and committee in this Division to carefully and prayerfully study this call and by the aid of the Spirit of God and the infilling of divine power plan for such a program of evangelism as will make it possible to reach the millions of souls still waiting in darkness here in the Middle East.

WORLD CALENDAR

The secretary-General of the UN was requested to transmit document E/2514 to the governments of State members and non-members of the United Nations with the request that they study the problem of the proposed World Calendar and furnish their views by some time early in 1955.

The NGO section of the United Nations has released the answers of the different countries. We are thrilled to note that four countries in our Division, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria were all against the proposed World Calendar. These are the exact statements released.

IRAQ: The Iraqi Government, after due consideration, have come to the conclusion that they cannot support the proposal for the World Calendar Reform.

TURKEY: The competent Turkish authorities are of the opinion that the adoption by all the countries of the world of a Universal Calendar, free from the deficiencies of the present calendars and providing a number of facilities, could serve a useful purpose. On the other hand, however, they think that such a revision which would, inevitably, conflict with the principles of different religious faiths and affect the traditions of many peoples would, probably prove itself unpracticable due to these enormous difficulties.

(Continued on page 6)



Those who made the Minute-Man goal in the Heliopolis Church during the 1954-1955 Ingathering Campaign. Back row, from left to right: Ibrahim Youssef, Isaac Kafrouni, Mrs. Erna Kruger, Farag Asaad, Hilmy Berbawy, George Samuel, Hanna Watson. Front row, from left to right: Faheem Iskandar, Rawhia Foad, Rebecca Saleeba, Mrs. N. C. Wilson, Emilie Levidis, Mrs. Narguis Watson.

Yes, we are living in serious times. Serious in that we have a task to perform, a responsibility that is ours and yet we have so little of that which is needed—time.

We as a denomination have for years told the world—time shall end and now we find the great scientists calling these days "a minute to midnight."

As a people of prophecy we know time is short and with our eyes upon our loving Saviour we press forward, praising His name, knowing that it is because of His sacrifice, we shall be saved.

With the Luke 10 neighbour story in mind we long to bring the gospel story to the millions who know it not.

We have had the joy of seeing an entirely new field opened up just over four years ago—the Sepik Mission. Not

SERIOUS TIMES

By S. H. Gander, S.S. & H.M.
Secretary, Coral Sea Union Mission,
Australasian Division

an Adventist had ever been there, but today a report can be given of 600 members and 3,000 Sabbath school members. What a needy field that is, and our greatest need is teachers. We have such fine types and the young men are eager to go to school.

The Kabiufa Training School is for the Coral Sea Union Mission field, and our greatest desire is to get young men from the four main centers of the Sepik Mission to attend the school. The centres are Sepik River, Western Islands, Schouten Islands, and the Maprik Lume Area.

What a heart-break it is to have thousands calling for teachers of this denomination and yet we have insufficient teachers. We have the last day message for a dying world, but we have shortage of time and shortage of teachers.

We pray that the 13th Sabbath overflow for the first quarter of 1956 will be an all time special and that the Kabiufa Training School be greatly supported. May we all praise the loving Saviour for His many blessings because they are always an overflow—abundant. Many reading this will not have the opportunity of visiting foreign fields, but how good it is to think that we can have a part with our prayers and offerings. May I thank you all for the wonderful offering which I know you will give?

DIVINE GUIDANCE

by D. E. Rebok

Every worker should have a copy of this book written by Elder Rebok explaining the work of the Spirit of Prophecy in the Remnant Church. Order now from your local Book & Periodical House or Mission Office. Price—L.L. 1.50

*We still have a number of copies of
the Christian Home Library edition of*

GREAT CONTROVERSY

Price 1.00 Dollar postpaid.

Order now from your local Book & Periodical House Office

MIDDLE EAST PRESS

P. O. Box 2345, BEIRUT

TO REACH HIS IDEAL

By A Gordon Zytkoskee

Y.P.M.V. Secretary



"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached." Ed. p. 18. This is an oft repeated statement. How wonderful it is that God has given us another year. He is merciful to us in giving us another opportunity to do well. There were so many opportunities that have been lost. There were so many things that have been left undone. There were so many words carelessly spoken. There were so many thoughts unguarded. There were so many problems unsolved. There were so many dreams shattered, and with disappointments the sails of our ship of life were torn and tattered.

Again, in a new year, we seek godliness and godlikeness, God's divine thought and ideal for us. We must forget the past and its failures. There is a grace that infinite love bestows upon humanity, and that is the power to forget. To be able to forgive or to be forgiven has no objective except one forgets. There are more opportunities to be found, new things to do, words salted with grace to speak, power to direct our thoughts, problems—but soluble, brighter dreams to consider, and strong sails for our bark, with fresh, invigorating and kindly winds.

It was five o'clock in the morning. The sun had not yet made its appearance. The plane had taxied out to the runway. The motors had been warmed and the captain of the aircraft waited for the signal from the tower. There was a roar of giant motors, a sudden burst of power, and a slight shudder of the plane as it left the ground re-

tracting its landing gears. Away we soared into the skies to meet the dawn.

Village after village, nestled in the mountains, passed beneath us. We continued to climb until the highest mountains could be seen beneath us. It was not long until the clouds in the sky, which a few moments before were floating above us, now danced beneath us in the shimmering rays of a rising sun.

How nice it would be, I thought to myself, to keep climbing; climbing far above the toil and problems of earth; climbing until I reached the very atmosphere of God's ideal. This is what David thought when he said: "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and be at rest." Psalm 55:6.

Soon the ecstasy of the occasion faded away into another ordinary day. The plane landed. I was back to earth again. The problems, temptations, and toil of everyday life were there to meet me. How can I reach God's ideal for me? To soar away to the unknown, to escape from the storms and tempests of this world, and then find myself suddenly surrounded by, and living according to God's ideal, is impractical and wishful thinking. Success in life, and victory in all efforts to reach God's ideal will consist of experiences of toil, trust, and triumph. Jesus implied that when He prayed: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil." John 17:15.

God's ideal for you is a life of toil. Jesus felt this experience in His own life and expressed it in these words: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4.

A beggar stopped me in the street the other day and asked me for "buck-sheesh." "But you are young and strong!" I said. "But I am 'maskeen'," (poor) he replied. I said to him, "Please show me your hands." Hesitatingly, he opened his hands to let me have a look at them. They were soft and spongy. Though the young man was physically sound and well able to work, he had dedicated his life to be sustained by the generosity of the public. His hands were deteriorated by disuse. To such a man who had shunned the beauty of

toil, sympathy was unwarrantable. Have you sometimes asked God to bestow upon you blessings, and He has said to you, "Show me your hands?" You presented to Him your hands; they were untouched by service and the Master looked disappointed, but lovingly He said, "Son, go work in my vineyard." Toil as if you had but one day to live, but plan for eternity.

God's ideal for you is a life of trust. Trust in God and man, and to be trusted by God and man.

It was one of those days that perhaps come to everyone. I was feeling a bit depressed. On the way to the airport with my wife and daughter the conversation consisted of a discussion pertaining to disappointments that had come to me. My conversation must have shown a definite lack of trust for seven-year old Cherry ventured to speak and in her simple child-like faith she asked me a question that taught me a lesson I can never forget. "Don't you trust in Jesus?" she said. David learned this same lesson. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5. We shall be given no problem that cannot be solved. We shall be asked to bear no burden that cannot be borne. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." Psalm 55:22. God invites you to experience the beautiful peace, the spiritual serenity, and the balanced life that an individual may have who has learned well the lesson of trust. Renew your confidence in God. Find men and women, friends, whom you can trust. Cause others by your own words and deeds to place implicit trust in you.

God's ideal for you is a life of triumph. Triumph in life or death, whatever may be your lot, God gives you grace, yes, boundless grace, to live or die triumphantly! Think of the thrill that comes to those who have dedicated their lives to mountain climbing. They press onward and upward, defying cliff and crag. Wind, snow, and glaciers bring fear to their hearts. Above them soaring through the clouds is a peak challenging their courage and endurance. Sometimes lives are lost. But in life or death new mountain heights are conquered. Far above the standards of

(Continued on page 6)

Middle East College — YOUR SCHOOL

By C. L. Gemmell
Acting President

On Sabbath, February 18, 1956, an offering for Middle East College was taken in all the Seventh-day Adventist Churches in the Division. Once a year the constituency is invited to help provide funds for needed improvements at the only school of higher learning operated by the denomination in this section of the world.

Middle East College provides a balanced program of student activities including study, work, worship, play, and cultural activities. All students are expected to attend the chapel exercises and the weekend services of the church and the boarding students attend morning and evening worships in the dormitories as well.

The college classes offered are designed especially for the student who is planning to join the ranks of regular

or lay workers in carrying forth the gospel commission. A four-year course in Religion and Theology is available for those desiring to enter the preaching profession. Four-year courses are also available for secondary and elementary teachers and business administrators. Two-year courses are taught in the fields of secretarial science and elementary education.

Not only does Middle East College train for various occupations in this life, but it is preparing students for the "higher" school above. The faculty solicits the prayers of each believer for the success of the school. The troublous times in which we live makes it an even greater task to train students for the future. Middle East College greatly appreciates your prayers and financial assistance.

WELCOME NEW WORKERS



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Waring, Billy and Randy, who recently arrived in Beirut where Mr. Waring is connected with the Industrial Arts Department of Middle East College.



Mr. and Mrs. M. Earl Adams and daughter, Carol, have now made their home in Tebran, Iran where Mr. Adams is Educational and Y.P.M.V. Secretary and Principal of the Iran Training School.

To Reach His Ideal

(Continued from page 5)

the world and finite thought, is God's ideal for you. It cannot be reached except by the grace and power of One who has met the challenge of this high ideal and in life and death, has triumphed.

The Mountaintop

There's a mountaintop awaiting
Where 'tis fresh, invigorating,
And the cooler breath of morning fans
the cheek;
Worth the effort to attain it,
Worth quite all the price to gain it,
There's a mountaintop of splendor, if
you seek.

Far above the care and worry
Of the world in busy flurry,
With the shadows of despondency be-
low;
Where we think not of the
morrow,
Where the sunlight pierces sorrow,
All forgotten in the valley with its woe.

Up! my friend, and let us hasten,
Let us leave this arid basin
Where repining and resentment hold
their sway;
Let us get to yonder mountain,
Where the never-drying fountain
Waits to help poor, weary travelers on
their way.

Each new height reveals another
Far surpassing every other,
And a further realm to conquer when
it's gained;
On to higher peaks, and pleasant,
Nor content with just the present,
Ever upward, and to heights not yet
attained.

—Marjorie Lewis-Lloyd

To toil where He calls, to trust as He leads, to triumph as He triumphed, —this is His ideal, and let this be your aim.

convey that the Syrian Government does not approve the adoption of this World Calendar.

World Calendar

(Continued from page 3)

LEBANON: Since the question is bound up with religious consideration,

it cannot be settled without previous extensive consultation of the religious communities.

SYRIA: The Syrian Delegation has been instructed by its Government to

Iran was very lengthy and non-committal on its position, except that they are suggesting certain technical changes in the program that would bring the new calendar in more complete agreement with the mean tropical year.

The HOPE HERE AND THERE

A Silent Messenger

By Maurice Katrib
Editor *Hope*

Our literature ministry is one of the mightiest agencies through which God's work will soon be finished in the world. From the pen of inspiration we are told: "The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand. I am bidden to say to our publishing houses: 'Lift up the standard; lift it up higher. Proclaim the third angel's message, that it may be heard by all the world. Let it be seen that here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. Let our literature give the message as a witness to all the world." 9 T p. 61.

The *Hope* magazine is one of the agencies used to warn and prepare as many people as possible for the coming of the Lord in this part of the world. As a missionary paper it is doing a good work everywhere by opening the way for the gospel message to be more fully presented and accepted. As a "silent messenger" the *Hope* is breaking down walls of prejudice and is finding its way into places where no worker would ever have an opportunity to enter. With its wide selection of articles both Christian and Moslem can find interesting reading material.

It is the aim of this publication to save souls for the kingdom of God and that God may be exalted. During this year it is planned to present Bible prophecy in the light of present day events. Other interesting and informative articles on Christian education, Temperance, and Health will also be found in the *Hope*.

From the book *Counsel to Editors and Writers*, page 11, we read this statement: "The great lack of men to go from place to place and preach the word may be in a great degree supplied by tracts and papers." Yes, the *Hope* is supplying this great lack of workers. We ask that you remember this publication in your prayers; that as it is promoted throughout the Middle East Division many may come to a knowledge of the true God and of His saving power.

* Elder R. C. Darnell, President of the Jordan Mission, conducted a Week of Prayer at Middle East College during the Fall Quarter when students, faculty, and friends received much inspiration.

* New classes offered at the beginning of the second quarter at Middle East College are *Methods of Teaching Social Science in Secondary Schools*, *Tests and Measurements*, *World Religions*, and *Arabic Typing*.

* During 1955 Middle East College students solicited LL 3960.50 in their Harvest Ingathering Campaign, the highest amount received in the history of the school.

* A Master Guide Club has now been formed in Middle East College under the presidency of Mrs. G. T. Gott. Members are busily engaged in plans and projects to make the club a worthy enterprise.

* On November 18, 1955, Elder and Mrs. C. C. Morris, left Beirut aboard the "S. S. Enotria" for furlough in the United States where they will visit relatives and friends.

* Beginning this year the *Middle East Messenger* has a new and original masthead. We wish to thank Mr. Eddie Kalustian, a student of Middle East College, for this fine art work.

* We welcome Dr. and Mrs. S. D. Karmy and sons Robert, James, Paul, and Richard to the Middle East Division. Dr. Karmy and family are now located in Baghdad, Iraq where the Doctor will be on the staff of Dar Es Salaam Hospital.

* On Christmas Day in the Community Church in down town Beirut, Mr. Henry Melki, Publishing and Home Missionary Department Secretary for the East Mediterranean Union, took as his bride Miss Mona Nowfel. As this young couple establish a Christian home together may the Lord's blessing ever abide with them.

* Miss Gladys Green of Thialand, Mr. Roy Charlton of the British Navy, and Mr. Robert Hamilton and family enroute to their mission field post in India were recent visitors to Beirut.

* At the request of the Middle East Division Religious Liberty Department, the editor of the *Liberty* magazine has changed the "Declaration of Principles" as printed on the inside cover of the *Liberty* magazine, beginning with the January 1, 1956 issue. The change has been made to embrace the adherents of all faiths who believe in the principles of Religious Liberty.

* The Dar Es Salaam Hospital

School of Nursing held its Fifth Graduation Exercises on October 16, 1955 in the hospital chapel. There were seven young women who received their diplomas in this the largest graduating class. The class was seated on the platform under their flower-wreathed motto, *Where Duty Calls*, and the flags of Iraq and Lebanon. The program was as follows: Processional, Mrs. M. V. Jacobson; Invocation, Elder Salim Majid; Violin solo, Haig Balayian; Commencement Address, Dr. Melina Simeckova; Vocal Duet, Elder and Mrs. C. C. Crider; Presentation of Class, Miss Evangeline Voth, Presentation of Diplomas, Dr. William Wagner, Benediction, Elder C. C. Crider.

Diplomas were presented to three graduates from Iraq, Rosa Ayoub Ewans, Matilda Harutunian, Araxy Isaac, and to four graduates from Lebanon, Anahid Barsoumian, Ardemise Barsoumian, Knarik Mikaelian, Angel Yessayian.

* Eleven students enrolled in the new nursing class at the Hospital. The following six countries are represented. Iraq—Samira Boony, Susan Nathan; Lebanon—Shake Garabedian, Yenova Aladjaji; Jordan—Widad Mashni, Huda Madanatt, Montaha Azar; Syria—Kaukab Dib, Samira Dib; Egypt,—Natiga Nakhla Shahata; Iran—Shamiram Amir.

EAST MEDITERRANEAN UNION

* Elder Carl Gidlund, President of the East Nordic Union Conference, with headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden, spent a day in the Beirut area visiting our schools and institutions enroute to Ethiopia.

* Book and periodical houses are now being organized in the different missions and the records show growth. Iraq Mission is now keeping an independent set of books and Lebanon-Syria Mission is working toward this goal.

IRAQ

* A Week of Prayer was recently held at the Baghdad School when the speaker was Elder C. C. Crider. Pastor Chafic Srouf held meetings at the Aman Church and school, and Elder A. G. Zytoskee spoke during the Week of Prayer held in the Dar Es Salaam Hospital chapel.

* At the Dar Es Salaam Hospital on November 3, 1955, a little daughter, Ruth Ellen, was welcomed into the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Wagner.

LEBANON-SYRIA

* The cancer film "One in 20,000" has now been shown in the Bishmazzine and Beirut Armenian churches. Copies

of this script as translated into Arabic may be secured from the Temperance Department of the Union.

* Emile Tabanji of the Lebanon-Syria Mission is now a regular colporteur, averaging about LL 125.00 in literature sales each week.

* The Tripoli flood disaster took a toll of lives and did considerable property damage. Many organizations are aiding the flood victims and the Adventists also are doing their part in supplying either cash, food, or clothing.

* Tram advertisements in the city of Beirut are bringing in a number of new names for the Voice of Prophecy lessons. Volunteers have spent many hours answering telephone calls regarding the lessons.

* With an enrollment of 385 children, Salim Noujaim, Union Educational Secretary, states that Beirut Arabic School is now our largest elementary and secondary school. The school includes eleven grades. We welcome the Kerak School to our group of educational institutions.

NILE UNION

* Fifteen evangelistic efforts are now in progress throughout the Nile Union. The Sunday night meetings are being devoted to VOP interests. About thirty-five hundred invitations have been sent to graduates and active VOP students urging them to attend the meetings in their locality.

* A recent graduate of the VOP Correspondence Course is canvassing now, having been baptized as a result of the VOP lessons.

* Forty bales of welfare clothing from the United States have reached Egypt and are now being distributed. Twenty bales will be used in Egypt while the other twenty bales will be distributed equauy between the Sudan and Libya.

* Pastor Hilmy Berbawy has taken over his new duties as Secretary of the Upper Egypt Mission, Pastor of the Assiut Church, and Headmaster of the Assiut School. Mrs. Berbawy is assisting in the Church School.

* The film, "One in 20,000", has been shown favorably in several Upper Egypt towns. The Teachers' College, the Y.M.C.A., different churches and schools, as well as other organizations were happy to have the use of this film.

* Brother Yacoub Nashed, Educational Secretary, made a recent trip to Upper Egypt and reports that of the twelve schools in the Union, two are new. The Heliopolis School reports a record enrollment of 135 students under the instruction of seven teachers, with Mr. Shafik Ghali as Headmaster.

* The Nile Union Academy has as its new Principal and Business Manager, Pastor Hugh Cowles. Mr. Hanna Watson, Mr. Shehata Guindi, Mr. Nabil Fayed, Mr. Fahim Iskander, and Mr. Adeb Elias are also connected with the school.

* Pastor Hilal Dose conducted the Fall Week of Prayer at the Nile Union Academy which gave much strength and encouragement to the students and teachers.

* A Master Guide Club was recently organized in Heliopolis under the direction of Mrs. J. S. Russell.

* Two Fall weddings were solemnized in the Heliopolis Church at which Pastor Neal C. Wilson officiated. Miss Maggie Fayek became the bride of Captain Safwat Sabet on December 4, 1955 and Miss Kamal Robin and Mr. Fahim Iskander were united in marriage October 9, 1955. May the Lord bless these young people as they establish Christian homes.

IRAN

* The Iran Training School was re-opened last October after having been closed for three years. Brother Earl Adams, the Principal, reports that while the enrollment is small, a good spirit prevails and progress is being made.

* Plans for a new church building in Julfa, Isfahan are being brought to fruition. The foundation has been laid and construction of the building will begin next April under the supervision of Pastor Y. O. Sangarloo, Iran Mission, Secretary-Treasurer. The present congregation approximates fifty in number and is under the pastorship of J. S. Gabriel.

* Iran is gratefully able to report that 1955 was a banner year for baptisms—the highest number in any year since 1946. Twenty-five persons were baptized in obedience to the command of Christ. We look forward to 1956 as a God-given opportunity to make still greater progress in carrying out the Great Commission.

* Pastors R. C. Skinner and Y. O. Sangarloo made a trip to Abadan during the latter part of December with a view to encouraging the company of believers there and formulating plans for the future. There are twenty-three members there but to date no organized work has been undertaken.

* A series of evagelistic meetings was held nightly from November 20 to December 7 by Pastor R. C. Skinner in the Adventist church at Julfa, Isfahan. Each night the church was packed to overflowing with the attendance averaging more than one hundred persons. Many manifested a definite in-

terest and Brother J. S. Gabriel, pastor of the church, is continuing to hold meetings each Friday evening and is following up the interests. Please pray for a harvest of souls in this fine city.

"Not many people have convictions. Everybody has a belief, but a belief, is not a conviction. A belief is what a man holds, while a conviction is what holds a man."

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January	21	Religious Liberty
February	11	Hope subscriptions
February	18	Middle East College
March	10	Foreign Missions
March	24	Middle East Division

CHURCH CALENDAR

First Quarter 1956		
January	7	Home Missionary (Local Church Evangelism)
	21	Religious Liberty Day
	28	Christian Home and Family Altar Day
February	4-11	Hope Campaign
	18	Christian Education
March	3	Home Visitation Day
	10	Missionary Volunteer Day
	17-24	MV Week of Prayer

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH OFFERINGS

1st Sabbath	Local Church Evangelism
2nd Sabbath	Church Expense
3rd Sabbath	Education (Local School)
4th Sabbath	Church Expense
5th Sabbath	Poor Fund

DIVISION DIRECTORY

President	Geo. J. Appel
Secretary-Treasurer	C. C. Morris
DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES	
Educational	G. A. Keough
Radio & YPMV	A. G. Zytoskee
Home Mis., Publishing, Rel. Lib., and Temperance	Wadie Farag
Sabbath School & Ministerial	Geo. J. Appel

MIDDLE EAST MESSENGER

EDITOR..... Flora Oslund
Published quarterly as the Official Organ of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Middle East Division, P. O. Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.