

# Messenger

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NUMBER 6

## Church Dedicated At Basra, Iraq

A 100,000-dollar Seventh-day Adventist church was dedicated November 20, at the internationally prominent date-growing center of Basra, Iraq. Participants in the Sabbath afternoon dedication ceremony were Elders R. R. Figuhr and W. R. Beach, president and secretary respectively of the General Conference, and Elder Behnam Arshat, president of the Iraq Section.

The church was crowded beyond its 250 seating capacity as the two-day opening celebration began with a sermon by Elder A. A. Haddad, the division MV department and temperance department secretary, Friday night. Other sermons were the worship sermon Sabbath morning by Doctor Beach and the dedicatory that afternoon by Elder Figuhr.

Situated in the heart of the embassy section of Basra, the building occupies a prominent corner on one of the city's broad avenues. It includes, in addition to the church auditorium, a pastor's residence, guest rooms, a youth room, and the first part of a projected elementary school, to be completed by the Iraq Section as means are available.

The land, valued at approximately \$50,000, was donated to the church by the Hasso brothers, prominent Baghdad merchants and members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. It was at Basra where Brother Bashir Hasso some forty years ago first began business, opening a pharmacy. Until the dedication of this church, there has been no denominationally-owned place of worship for Seventh-day Adventists in that city.

Many other gifts were given besides the land, so that approximately fifty per cent of the cost of the project was provided locally in Iraq by church members and friends.

The act of dedication was led by the Section president, Elder Arshat, who

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## Elders R. R. Figuhr, W. R. Beach Join Committee for Annual Meeting

Elders R. R. Figuhr and W. R. Beach, president and secretary of the General Conference, joined the regular members of the Middle East Division Committee for its annual meeting, November 3 to 8, at the office headquarters in Beirut. Besides providing valuable counsel throughout the meetings, they presented morning devotional talks each day for the committee members, office workers, and other workers from nearby institutions and the Lebanon Section.

Elder Beach addressed an audience of more than 600 persons at the Bourj Hamoud Armenian church for a Sunday evening evangelistic meeting speaking on the subject, "What is the Destiny of This World?" Other week end meetings gathered Adventists and friends into various churches to hear Elders Figuhr and Beach.

The committee, distributing the largest appropriation ever received by this division from the General Conference, voted funds for a large number of special projects and made larger sums available for regular operating expenses. Two results are predictable from the distribution: increased correspondence school work and more emphasis on soul-winning activity.

The appropriation to the correspondence schools for their work was increased beyond the radio funds usually earmarked for this work in order to make possible the extended operation of these schools. The response to the health course has opened up additional opportunities for these schools which would have to have been neglected otherwise. The funds will provide for

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*Members of the division committee pictured with other workers during the annual meeting, November 3 to 8.*

## Messages to Young People Chosen 1966 Book of the Year

*Messages to Young People* has been chosen for promotion in 1966 as the Spirit of prophecy and missionary book of the year. It will be sold to church members at the price of three Lebanese lira or its equivalent.

The book of the year is promoted both as a necessary addition to the library of every church member and as a book which may be purchased and given to friends as a personal missionary project. Previously *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *The Desire of Ages* have been sold at reduced rates under this plan.

The book is to be presented for special attention in the churches at the close of the Spirit of Prophecy Week, February 5, and again at the beginning of Christian Home Week, February 19. The book has been selected as being particularly valuable in the Christian home as a guide to both parents and youth in the handling of youth problems.

To be included in the 1966 MV Arabic book club, the book is to be sponsored by parents, teachers, schools, and MV societies so that every youth in Adventist homes and schools or in contact with Adventist work will receive a copy. Church pastors and evangelists are to be urged to use the book as a gift premium in their meetings.

The plan is to distribute 2,000 copies, which will make it the widest circulated Spirit of prophecy book for any given year in the history of the division.

## Basra Church

*Continued from page one*

had once served for a number of years as pastor to the congregation. Currently the pastor is Elder Nageeb Azar.

Many of the finest families of Basra, although not all of them members of the church, joined in the act of dedicating the church to the service of God. Doctor Beach offered the dedicatory prayer.

Commenting on the presence of distinguished visitors, Elder R. A. Wilcox, the division president, noted that by the blessings of the Lord, the church building had found favor not only in

## Bishmezzine Book Sale

A successful book sale crowned the literature evangelist rally day services at the Bishmezzine Church, November 13. Directed by George Yared, Lebanon Section book and periodical house manager, the sale of books amounted to LL 250 (retail value). Fifty pounds of this was for the missionary book, *The Desire of Ages*.

R. E. Anderson, manager of Middle East Press, used the ten-minute missionary period to present to the audience the four new volumes printed at the publishing house this year. Division publishing secretary, D. L. Chappell, presented the sermon entitled "God's Beauty Contest."

Milad Abdel-Karim, Lebanon Section publishing department secretary, and several colporteurs related experiences during a special vespers service telling how God blessed their canvassing work this past summer.

The Bishmezzine book sale was the second one sponsored by the Lebanon Section in as many weeks. Yared and his co-laborers sold LL 134 worth of Adventist literature at the fellowship gathering at Middle East College, November 7.

As far as we know, the only other book sale held in our division this year was directed in Baghdad last August by R. E. Anderson and Basim Fargo, Iraq Section book and periodical house manager. There the sales amounted to \$84.00.

This avenue of literature distribution is virgin territory in our division. We encourage the book and periodical house managers to have a book sale in every church at least once a year. The returns will be most satisfying to all concerned.

—D. L. Chappell

the sight of officials who licensed its construction, but in the hearts of the community. He attributed much of the favor given the church to the influence of the Dar es-Salaam Hospital in Baghdad. "Once again the right arm of the message has opened up doors for the work of the church."

Plans have already been announced for public services in the church building. Late in January Dr. Herschel Lamp and Elder A. A. Haddad are to conduct a **Five-Day** group therapy program to stop smoking. Elder Chafic Srour, the division evangelist, is also scheduled in the near future to open a series of meetings in the church.

## Elders Figuhr, Beach Participate in Public Relations Program

*(Pictures on page three)*

The visit of Elders R. R. Figuhr and W. R. Beach to Beirut, November 2 to 8, received unusual attention from the Lebanese public. On hand to greet the pair as they arrived at the airport were leaders of the Adventist church from all Sections of the division, Pastor Farid Awdeh, head of the evangelical union in Lebanon, and a crowd estimated above 200 persons. The event was covered by photographers from the press and television.

Met at the door of the aircraft, Elder Figuhr was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Basima Sawma, a Seventh-day Adventist student from the denomination's Museitbeh school, and welcomed to Lebanon. The reception was in the special lounge reserved for dignitaries. After refreshments, courtesy of the Scandinavian Airlines System, police admitted by small groups the crowd which had gathered to greet the General Conference officers. Later a motorcade led by police escort took the visitors from the airport to the Division headquarters.

Earlier in the day a story running twenty column inches in the city's leading English newspaper announced their arrival. This was followed by a front page picture the next morning. The television station gave excellent coverage in evening news reports in English, French, and Arabic and later in a round-up of the week's events. Elder Robert Darnell, the division public relations secretary, called this a "major publicity breakthrough" in a city which usually notices only the comings and goings of the traditional religious leaders.

Elders Figuhr and Beach continued to spread good will and create interest in denominational work, when during the second day of their visit they called upon Mr. Charles Hellou, the president of the republic, to extend greetings and good wishes of the Seventh-day Adventist church to the government and people of Lebanon. Elder Beach and Mr. Hellou chatted together in French, after which Elder A. A. Haddad, the division temperance and MV department secretary, made a formal state-

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## AIRPORT WELCOME

1. Part of the crowd which lined the terminal balcony.
2. Elders Figuhr, Beach, and Wilcox leave the plane under glare of TV lights.
3. Pastors Haddad and Awdeh with flower girl say "Welcome to Lebanon."
4. Pictured with Pastor Awdeh, head of the Lebanese Evangelical Union, in VIP lounge.
5. Basima Sawma, flower girl, shows welcome smile.
6. Workers gather around the visitors to extend greetings.
7. Part of the scores who filed through the reception room to join the welcome.



## Elder W. J. Clemons At M. E. College For Week of Prayer

Using the theme, "He is Able," Elder W. J. Clemons, chaplain of the Benghazi Adventist Hospital, appealed to students of Middle East College to entrust their lives to Jesus. Many of them did so for the first time in their lives.

He was conducting the college's annual autumn week of religious emphasis, November 13 to 20. Response at the testimony meeting and altar call Friday evening was reported as "especially good." The follow-up plans include a Bible discussion group to meet regularly allowing the interested students an opportunity to deepen their religious knowledge and experience.

Particularly impressive during the week was a drawing of the head of Christ displayed directly behind the speaker. Sketched by Romin William, a student from Iraq, the drawing captured in a significant way the meaning of the week's theme.

## Elder R. S. Greaves Dies in California At 93 Years of Age

Elder Robert S. Greaves, who served for many years in Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus, was buried, October 19, at the Cherokee Memorial Park, in Lodi, California. He had suffered a stroke several months before his death and spent the last weeks of his life in coma. He is survived by his wife, Isabel.

He was born in 1872 in Canada. He began his work in the territory of the present Middle East Division at Smyrna, Turkey, in 1908. During the critical years which followed he moved to Greece, which was at that time part of the Middle East field. In 1931 the Greaves family, now retired, moved to the island of Cyprus and soon started a Sabbath school there.

Many readers of the MESSENGER will remember Elder Greaves and his wife and mourn the passing of this pioneer missionary.



*Shebada Halabi seen translating for Doctor Lamp at the Five-Day Plan Meeting in the Adventist Cultural Center, Beirut, October 31 to November 4.*

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

Elder R. L. Fenn, recently called from Jerusalem to serve as associate pastor of the College Park church and to teach in the English and Bible departments of the college, arrived on the campus with his family the latter part of November. They are living in the house formerly occupied by the H. S. Johnson family. He has been appointed acting head of the English department.

The community choir, directed by Miss June Soper, head of the college music department, presented two numbers, November 14, at the national evangelical church downtown Beirut. They are scheduled later to participate in the 150th anniversary celebration of the Bible Society.

The 1965-66 school year opened with an enrollment of 150. Of these, 88 are college students, continuing a trend toward higher enrollment in the upper classes as local Sections make stronger provision for secondary education within their own territory.

### CYPRUS

Plans are being carried out to get government recognition of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cyprus. A bank account has been opened in the name of the church, pending recognition.

Elder J. Sherwood Jones, the Section president, with a UN escort, visited the Nicosia church property recently. He found the building being used by the Turkish Cypriot authorities as an English school for Turkish children who

could not attend their usual classes at the English Junior and Secondary School due to the communal conflict. Most of the tile on the roof had been replaced, new plumbing fixtures installed, and the windows repaired.

A series of illustrated advertisements for the Bible correspondence course is being prepared for the Greek and English newspapers in Cyprus. This is part of a plan to reactivate the correspondence school with an extensive enrollment campaign. New enrollment cards and additional stocks of some of the first lessons have been printed.

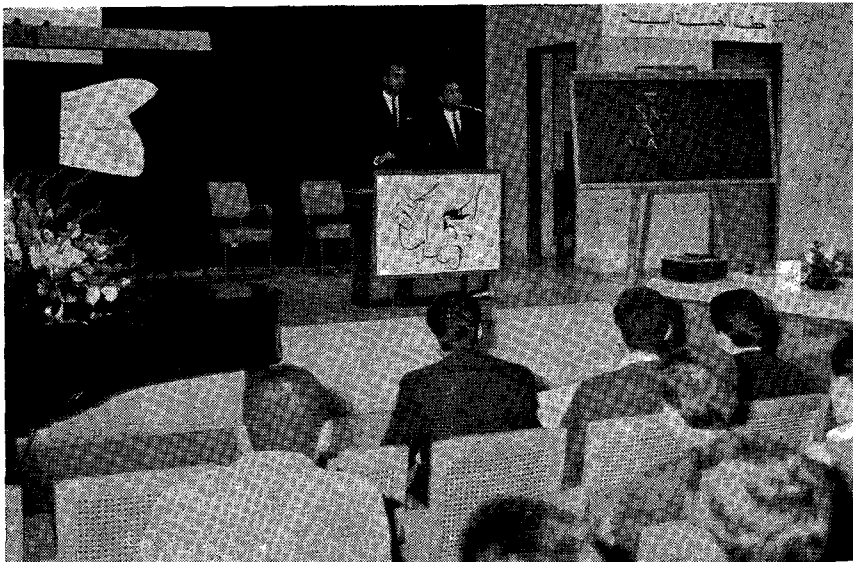
The members of the Nicosia church with a few friends have attended a "school of prayer" series of studies. This is to be followed by a layman's training class. A strong interest is reported.

### LEBANON

Elder Manoug Nazarian continues to draw capacity audiences of 600 persons to the Bourj Hammoud church for a series of meetings begun there October 31.

The Museitbeh school opened the 1965-66 school year with 400 students. Reports are that most of these also attend the Sabbath School.

Evangelistic plans for 1966 include efforts in Bishmezzine, Kafr Hazir, and Afsdik by Elder Towfic Issa, and in Aley, Souk el-Gharb, and Aramoun by Elder George Raffoul, it was reported by Elder George Khoury, the Lebanon Section president.



## Annual Meeting

*Continued from page one*

four new courses: The Light of the World course in Arabic, The Light from the Ancient Prophets course in Turkish, and health courses in Armenian and Greek.

The appropriation to the local Sections was increased in such a way so as to encourage the stronger promotion of departmental activities.

Major projects to be undertaken with special appropriations include the strengthening of the Middle East College library and the purchase of equipment for the various instructional departments, the construction of buildings in Beni Suef and Sohag, the purchase of land for an elementary school in Tehran, new building for the Baghdad Academy, additional building on the Jerusalem Cultural Center, an addition

to the Bishmezzine School, new housing for Middle East College staff, and furnishings and equipment for the Damascus center. At the same time funds were built up for the construction of church buildings at Middle East College and the Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

Ambitious plans were laid for the work in 1966 and goals for the various phases of the work adopted for recommendation to the Sections. A decision to begin the experimental use of the colporteur collection plan in Lebanon and Cyprus was approved. Resolution **encouraging the donation of books to select libraries and the increased use of the Five-Day Plan to stop smoking** were adopted. The *Ministry of Healing* was selected for publication as book of the year for 1967.

A new publishing venture was voted, a quarterly *MV Program Kit* in Arabic

to be prepared and circulated by the MV department. The opening of new medical institutions was discussed and study groups appointed to survey the possibilities. A plan was approved for calling to the Middle East visiting evangelists to hold meetings in the major centers.

## Public Relations

*Continued from page two*

ment in Arabic. The president was presented with books from the Middle East Press.

Also present at the meeting with the president were the division officers; Elders George Khoury, Behnam Arshat, Maurice Katrib, and Hilal Dose, presidents of the Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt Sections respectively; and Elder K. L. Vine and George Ghazal, the president and the treasurer of Middle East College.

# Section Goals for 1966

	CYPRUS (CyL)	EGYPT (LEg)	IRAN (Rials)	IRAQ (ID)	JORDAN (JD)
Investment Offering	17.860	83.350	15,000.00	71.430	35.720
Birthday-Thank Offering	8.930	83.350	30,000.00	71.430	35.720
Million Dollar Offering	5.360	77.920	107,625.00	157.150	35.720
Ingathering (1966 Campaign)	125,000	300,000	140,000.00	800,000	150,000
Church Membership	30	1,150	375	225	225
Branch Sabbath & Bible Schools (New)	2	25	7	10	4
"120" Crusade	7	75	40	10	15
Book of the Year		500		500	200
Hope Subscriptions		1,750		500	
Call to Health Subscriptions		1,200		1,500	2,500

	LEBANON (LL)	LIBYA (LiL)	SYRIA (SyL)	TURKEY (TqL)	DIVISION TOTAL (\$)
Investment Offering	2,900.00	125,000	300.00	1,800.00	2,400.00
Birthday-Thank Offering	1,305.00	62,500	300.00	450.00	1,700.00
Million Dollar Offering	986.00	153,570	111.00	693.00	3,500.00
Ingathering (1966 Campaign)	12,000.00		750.00	1,500.00	10,151.25
Church Membership	675	50	225	80	3,000
Branch Sabbath & Bible Schools (New)	9	2	5	2	66
"120" Crusade	54	7	15	10	240
Book of the Year	550	50	200		2,000
Hope Subscriptions	1,750		100		4,100
Call to Health Subscriptions	2,500	1,000	1,500		10,200

## LIFT EVERY OUNCE

"The voice that would say, 'Wait; do not allow yourself to have burdens imposed upon you,' is the voice of the cowardly spies."

This is what Sister White told a conference president in the United States who was trying to excuse his church members from giving larger offerings. She referred to the story of the Hebrew spies who having searched out Palestine brought back a discouraging report.

It was only Caleb and Joshua who reported, "Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it." The cowardly spies insisted, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." The sentiments of the unbelieving hearts prevailed and a revolt spread among the people with the intent of returning to Egypt. God Himself intervened; for forty years the people wandered in the wilderness until all who decided that infamous day died except Caleb and Joshua.

The story had a special lesson to that conference president. He was encouraging people to say, "We are not able," when it was his duty to say, "We are well able." "You have failed to advance with the opening providence of God;" Sister White told him. "You have not shown that the Holy Spirit was deeply impressing your heart, so that God could speak through you to his people." Leaders, she said, have "encouraged unpardonable cowardice, slothfulness, and covetousness."

The principle in the lesson applies to other than leaders. Greatly disturbed by the cowardice, slothfulness, and covetousness she saw in the churches of that conference, she appealed, "Let those who would follow Christ fully come up to the work, even if it be over the heads of ministers and president. . . . Let Christians who love duty lift every ounce they can."

The immediate problem was the opening of mission work in one of the large cities of the conference. The conference president wanted the General Conference to supply the money for the mission, whereas he had been told that it was his duty to raise the money from the churches in his conference. But Mrs. White was concerned with more than the immediate problem. She saw the whole future of the work in that area threatened and the souls of the church members endangered.

The real problems were cowardice, slothfulness, and covetousness. "There is no room in the church of God for the selfish and ease-loving," she warned. "All Heaven is interested in our work, and angels of God are ashamed of our weak efforts." "There is a great work for us to do before success will crown our efforts." "All who enter Heaven's gates will enter as conquerors." She pictured the way to eternal life as a series of "close and unexpected tests" which will require a believer to show how deep is his interest in the cause of God in its various branches. (See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 368-385.)

We do well to ask ourselves today if fear, laziness, or the selfish love of money hold us back from duty. "Let Christians who love duty lift every ounce they can."

## Small Health Project Breaks Barriers In Fiji

Here is the story of one of those unpredictable providences, reminding us that God has a thousand ways to work of which we know nothing. It took place at Fiji, a part of the Central Pacific Union mission territory in the Australasian Division. It is this division which will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow offering for this quarter. The story is reproduced here as written by J. P. L. Gray.

Religious superstition has always posed a well-nigh impenetrable barrier to reaching the 225,000 Indian majority of Fiji with our message.

In recent months, however, the situation has been completely reversed. Instead of our seeking them, they are begging for us. It all started unintentionally with a small steam room which we placed behind our house for use as a temporary and private health experiment. Before we realized what had happened, publicity was thrust upon this innovation, and uninvited strangers came begging for its benefits.

It became necessary for us to face the fact that the Lord opened to us a tremendous door to reach the hearts of the heathen Indian population. Several laymen were quick to offer their services, and after some training I set them to care (in three languages) for the visitors, with a health education program. From a trickle of 75 the first week, the number of callers rapidly swelled to over 2,000 a week, pouring in from all parts of the mainland.

Leading citizens were quick to offer complete financial assistance amounting to hundreds of pounds to establish such a center permanently. In the meantime fears that by-laws might deprive them of this temporary asset, ex-mayor of Lautoka, Mr. Choy Gopal, presented a petition to the local council, signed by 1660 people, urging that the steam bath and its related health education program be retained until it could be replaced by permanent facilities. The resulting vote was in our favor.

A town councilor rang me some days later to say, "I felt you should know, Pastor Gray, that the name of the S.D.A. mission has now become more highly respected than any other group, whether secular or religious. This is

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Middle East Messenger  
Robert Darnell ..... Editor

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*Continued from preceding column*

probably attributable to your steam bath."

Other comments from public men were: "Until three months ago, your church was despised as small and worthless. Now you are dearly loved."

Another: "The only church really helping the people of Fiji is the Seventh-day Adventist mission."

Another: "A few weeks ago we did not know your church existed; but now, for healing of soul and body, your church is on the lips of most families of our race."

Thus government officials have come to view our work with favor, while such organizations as the Registered Nurses' Association and the Rotary have invited me to address them. Four local newspapers have vied continually to print the most favorable stories of our work, and one editor has solicited our cooperation to write a full-page series of health articles, to be read by thousands of subscribers weekly. This man is ruler of the powerful Fiji Cane Farmers' Union and also General Secretary of the Fiji National Congress party.

Adherents of all religions, whether heathen or Christian, bring their friends for interviews and prayer, and return home to follow our health principles; the Holy Spirit, in numerous cases, is giving immediate victory over evil habits. I believe that the simple faith that is gripping these people as they come, is responsible for this. Among our visitors we count one grateful priest from a pagan temple, and the devil high-priest of the Hindu fire-walkers. Both enthusiastically regard our program. We wonder, is not this unusual.

Due to this little steam bath, a gentleman from another religion has not only requested baptism, but offered us five acres to build a church center in his district. Nearly forty people formerly unapproachable have now specifically requested help in becoming Adventists.

It is amazing that such simple facilities as a tiny 8' by 6' steam-box of rough temporary materials, a cold shower, and a table and chair for counseling, could have attracted over 13,000 visits from people as far away as 150 miles, and that many should, as a result, wish to become Seventh-day Adventists.

—From *News and Cues*  
Australasian Division

## ADVENTIST WORLD

### 250,000 AT KOREAN VBS

A quarter of a million Korean boys and girls attended vacation Bible schools this summer, according to a report by C. A. Williams, president of the Korean Union Mission. One church recorded a total enrollment of more than 40,000 youngsters during the summer. As a follow-up to the program, the Korean Union has organized 121 branch Sabbath schools with a total enrollment of 8,000. The branch Sabbath schools are conducted by laymen.

### SECOND SEAPLANE IN BRAZIL

A second airplane equipped with pontoons for landing on water will enter mission service early next year in the Amazon River basin of South America. This will enable the Seventh-day Adventist church to increase medical and mission activity in the million square miles of Brazil's interior by providing medical supplies and improving communications. The plane will supplement the activities of 16 medical launches on the Amazon and the other rivers of Peru and Brazil.



"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN." *Luke 2:13, 14.*

*During this season  
bring good tidings  
of great joy . . .*

**GIVE!**

## DESIRE OF AGES

— ARABIC —

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MISSIONARY BOOK OF THE YEAR

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odical House





A mixed quartet is seen singing at a Saturday evening variety program at Middle East College, November 6. Special guests for the occasion were 18 students from the Lebanese Institute for the Blind, Baabda.



Chafic Dagber, of the Lebanese ministry of information, is seen with Middle East Press officials, in front of the press exhibit at the annual Lebanese Book Fair, opening night, November 24.



Students at the Amman school taking exercises to begin the school day.

## G. M. Mathews, C. V. Brauer Plan Tour of Schools

Elder G. M. Mathews, associate secretary of the General Conference department of education, will begin a six-week tour of the Middle East Division beginning January 4. He will visit the local Sections inspecting educational institutions and planning with leaders for their advancement. He will be accompanied by Elder C. V. Brauer of the Middle East Division

Dates for the itinerary have been arranged as follows: Jordan, January 4 to 10; Iraq, January 11 to 16; Iran, January 17 to 24; Lebanon, January 24 to 31; Egypt, February 1 to 9; and Libya, February 10 to 12.

## Church Calendar

### SPECIAL DAYS

January	1	Soul-winning Plans and Home Visitation
January	8	Bible Evangelism Crusade
January	29	Spirit of Prophecy Day
Jan. 29-Feb.	5	Spirit of Prophecy Week
February	5	Book of the Year Promotion Day
February	19	Christian Home and Family Altar Day
Feb.	19-26	Christian Home Week
February	26	Temperance Commitment Day

## Division Directory

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January	1	Church Missionary
February	5	Church Missionary
February	12	Middle East College

### DIVISION DIRECTORY

President .....	R. A. Wilcox
Secretary .....	Robert Darnell
Treasurer and Auditor .....	V. A. Fenn
Section I Cashier and Accountant .....	Sabah Esber
Cashier and Assistant Auditor .....	R. W. Wilmot

### DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES

Education (Acting), Home Missionary and Radio	C. V. Brauer
Medical .....	Dr. Herschel Lamp
Associate Medical ...	Jabbour Semaan
Missionary Volunteer and Temperance .....	A. A. Haddad
Publishing and Sabbath School .....	D. L. Chappell
Religious Research, Public Affairs and Public Relations	Robert Darnell