



MIDDLE EAST Messenger

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Shafic Ghali, Habib Ghali, and Housni Kolta as photographed after their selection as secretary, president, and treasurer of the Egypt Section. They were elected by popular vote at a meeting of the Section constituency March 6 in Cairo and formally appointed at the division meeting of March 22. The Section committee named by the constituency includes Abadir Abdelmessih, Nassif Boutros, Samaan Fangary, Shehata Guindi, Fuad Guirguis, Hanna Malaka, Naguib Mossad and Fakbri Naguib.

1967-68 Staff Announced At M.E.C.; Ignatious Yacoub Appointed Dean

Dr. Kenneth L. Vine, Ignatious Yacoub, and George Ghazal have been appointed to lead the Middle East College faculty and staff for the school year 1967-68, it was announced following the annual board meeting, March 22, by F. C. Webster, chairman of the board.

Doctor Vine, president of the college, and Mr. Ghazal, business manager and treasurer, were reappointed. Mr. Yacoub was named academic dean, a position now held by Doctor Vine concurrently with the presidency, and will continue as chairman of the division of applied arts and head of the department of business administration.

The board created a new office, dean of students. The office will absorb the present office of counseling and guidance and supervise certain student

activities. Doctor Joseph Khoury, who heads the counseling and guidance service, was named to the new post. He will continue to chair the division of education and psychology and to head the departments of that division.

Others reappointed as division chairmen were Elder J. S. Russell, history and fine arts; Dr. Siegfried Schwantes, religion and Biblical languages; and Leslie Morris, science and maths.

Changes in department heads will bring James Stephan to music and Dale Hepker to communications, filling vacancies left by June Soper and Richard L. Fenn respectively who had accepted positions elsewhere. Baldur Pfeiffer, completing doctorate studies in Germany will head the history department.

No changes were made in other

Division Department Vacancies Filled

**M. Nazirian, L. C.
Miller Join Staff**

Long-vacant division department offices were filled early in February by action of the General Conference Committee appointing Elder Manoug Nazirian and L. Curtis Miller to the division office staff.

Elder Nazirian was named secretary of the lay activities department and Elder Miller secretary of the ministerial association and secretary of the radio-TV department.

Elder Nazirian, appointed in May, 1966, acting secretary of the division Missionary Volunteer department, previously served as a department secretary in the Lebanon Section and as acting president of the Section. He is a graduate of Middle East College (1950) and of Andrews University (1967) with an M. A. in applied theology. He has pastored Armenian churches in Beirut, Lebanon, and Julfa, Iran.

Elder Miller, a graduate of Walla Walla College, (1956) now completing work at Andrews, came to the Middle East in 1960 as a department secretary in Turkey. In 1962 he was elected president of that Section.

Mrs. Nazirian is principal of the Bourj Hammoud school in Beirut. Each family has three daughters. The Millers: Melody, age 11; Cynthia, 9; and Valerie, 5. The Nazirians: Sylvia, 14; Christina, 13; and Sossi, 4.

Other departments in the division are headed as follows: education, Ray L. Jacobs; medical, H. C. Lamp; publishing and Sabbath School, D. L. Chappell; religious liberty and public relations, Robert Darnell; and Temperance and YPMV, A. A. Haddad.

Continued on page eleven



TALKING TOGETHER

Back in the jungles of Peru, at our Union Mission station, Adventists from two tribes, the Piros and the Campan, have come to live. The director's home, the church, and the school divide the station into two sections. To the north live the Campas and to the south live the Piros.

At one time, even though all were of the same faith and loved the same Lord, there arose a division between the two tribes, perhaps due to an imagined favoritism or some petty circumstance. This division was apparent to a visiting missionary and naturally he was troubled.

One day a large group from both tribes gathered around him on the school playground. He cut a small twig and handed it to one of the Indians and motioned to him to break it. The strong Indian, with only a quick twist of his wrist easily broke the small twig. His companions laughed but seemed perplexed as to why the missionary would ask for so simple a show of strength.

The visitor then stepped to the side of the clearing and cut a handful of the same kind of twigs. He handed them to the same strong Indian and motioned him to break them together. The Indian recognized this to be more of a challenge. He took them in his hands and strained his strong muscles but could not break the handful of twigs. All the Indians laughed as he exerted himself and failed to break even one of them.

Anxious that all should learn the lesson that he sought to teach, the visitor called the translator and explained how separately the twigs were easy to break but united in a group it was impossible to break even one. The application was made regarding their own mission station. When the visitor had finished they all walked away thoughtful.

I visited that station years later and the Campas and Piros were still living together in the same settlement but peacefully as all Christian brothers should.

Satan likes to bring in divisions. He may try to lead us to enlarge little injustices all out of their true proportion; he may cause us to fix our eyes on little faults in our brethren so that we cannot see the strength of their ministry; he may lead us to be critical of a fellow-worker simply because he does his work a little differently than we do, or from the way in which we think it should be done. All too often we voice these feelings and the result tends toward disunity and lack of confidence in one another. This is a victory for Satan.

As we move forward in the Middle East Division to tell our neighbors of Jesus and His soon coming we must be united, loving and lifting together. That was the spirit that filled the hearts of the believers at Pentecost. It is this same spirit that will prevail in the hearts of God's children in the awakening promised for our day. Let us unite in prayer and work so that the awakening may come soon.

A. C. Webster

120 Invited to Attend Division Council in Beirut

Invitations to 120 representatives of institutions and local fields in the Middle East Division to attend a division council, July 25 to 29, were voted at a meeting of the Division committee, March 22. The council will be preceded by ministerial meetings July 19 to 25.

The General Conference committee earlier voted to send Elder R. H. Pierson and Elder Theodore Carcich, president and vice-president respectively of the world organization, to attend the council. Elder Andrew C. Fearing, associate secretary of the ministerial association, will represent the General Conference at the ministerial meetings.

According to the *General Conference Working Policy*, "Division councils are held, if possible biennially, and not less frequently than quadrennially." A division council is not a delegated conference session such as those held by union and local sections, but a regular meeting of the Division committee to which representatives are invited. The last division council here was conducted November 11 to 17, 1964.

First in Literature Gain

The Middle East Division was first among the divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist church, in gain in literature evangelists' sales during 1966, according to the world report of the General Conference publishing department. The gain in 1966 over 1965 was 27 per cent. Trans-Africa and Southern Asia ranked second and third with gains of 17.5 and 16 per cent respectively.

Five-Day Plan at Isfahan Draws Praise From Muslim Religious Leaders

"These people have come to show us how to keep our religion."

This was the explanation of a Muslim doctor, a member of the Isfahan university medical school, who addressed the five-day-plan audience, March 2, in Nafis auditorium, Isfahan, Iran. He was speaking to some 300 persons at the final session of a five-

Iran Ingathering Over Goal

Reach the ingathering goal before New Year's Day, was the aim of churches of Iran, and the last Sabbath of the Persian year (March 18) a round-up of church reports showed the objective accomplished.

The Iran Section goal of 150,000 riyals was distributed among the seven churches of the Section and raised by the earnest efforts of the laity, it was reported by Elder Kenneth Harding, the Section president.

The first church to reach the goal was the Jolfa church, which doubled the goal before the campaign ended. Elder Aram Aghassian, pastor of the church received good support from the church members. Brother Simon Marcarian was especially active.

In Tehran, businessmen contributed a third of the goal to select solicitors Vigain Marcarian, the Section treasurer; John Hasso, owner and general manager of Hasso Co. Inc.; M. H. Morovati, principal of the Adventist Academy, and Elder Harding. Most of the support was from Muslim friends of the Adventists.

day meeting to stop smoking, held in this university center by Doctor Herschel Lamp and teammates Hovik Sarrafian and Arsen Keshishzadeh.

Having quoted the Qur'an and stressed the religious value of abstinence from tobacco-use, he said, "The team has given not only words of theory, but practical instruction." He equated the sin of drinking alcohol with that of polytheism (attributing associates to God).

Among the spontaneous statements of thanks and approval given from the audience was one by a Muslim religious leader. Standing in his robe and turban he praised the spirit of the five-day plan. He testified publicly at the second meeting that he had smoked for 18 years, now averaging 20 cigarettes a day, but until the day before had been unable to muster the willpower to quit. Now, already, his appetite had improved and he was resting better.

Using the title "heavenly Christians," another mullah (one of six such leaders present the final night) privately told one of the team that he knew Seventh-day Adventists to be the true believers among Christians.

On behalf of the campus Jewish student organization (representing ten per cent of the students), a young medical student added to the comments the thanks of the Jewish religious community.

While the plan was thus making strong religious impressions, it was also gaining remarkable victories over the tobacco habit. A fifty year old man, who had been smoking a pack a day for 32 years stopped the first night, and continued through the series without any problems or difficult symptoms. A younger man, a smoker for eleven years, who had been ordered to stop smoking in order to relieve the burden from a weakened heart, found the help he needed. Many others, although with less critical problems, found a new freedom of will and entrance to the clean life they had desired.

The team was introduced the first night by Dr. Navob, the assistant dean of the medical faculty. Members of the team were Dr. Herschel Lamp, division medical department secretary; Hovik Sarrafian, Iran Section temperance department secretary; and Arsen Keshishzade, an active layman, who translated the lectures.



Dr. Herschel Lamp and translator Arsen Keshishzadeh address the 5-day plan audience in the Nafis auditorium, Isfahan, Iran.

Branch S.S. Work Grows in Lebanon

The interest in opening new branch Sabbath schools continues in Lebanon, reports Elder D. L. Chappell, the division Sabbath School department secretary.

Recently the building of the Beirut Overseas School on the Division compound has been put to use Sabbath afternoons to provide place for a branch school directed by Mrs. Kenneth Vine and students from Middle East College.

Other Sabbath school members are venturing to distant towns. Jeanette Issa and Faiza Abujawdeh go with Elder George Khoury Sabbath afternoons to Naameh, twenty kilometers south of Beirut. Monday evenings, Wajeh Faddoul and Elder Chappell go to Damour to conduct a branch school.

Iraq Accepts M. E. College

Graduates of Middle East College may now be accepted in Iraq as coming from a recognized institution of learning.

This was conveyed to officers of the Iraq section in a letter from the ministry of education, dated January 22, 1967, stating: "The educational committee of this ministry has voted in its 53rd meeting, of December 12, 1966, the recognition of Middle East College."

Iraq is the third Middle Eastern country to recognize the college. The first were Lebanon and Iran.

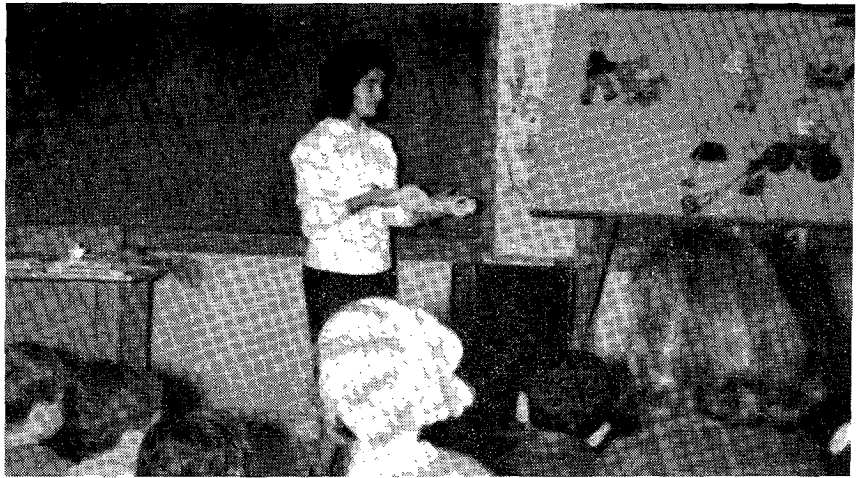
According to Doctor K. L. Vine, the college president, contacts are in progress to extend this recognition to other countries and to secure favorable evaluations of the degrees offered by the college.

Offerings Up 12 Per cent

Total Sabbath school offerings for the Middle East Division showed a 12 per cent gain in 1966 over 1965 according to the annual report of the Sabbath School department. Biggest gains were in Birthday-Thank offerings, nearly double the previous year, and Investment offerings which increased by 50 per cent.

Giving praise first to God for His abundant blessing, D. L. Chappell, the department leader, expressed appreciation to the pastors, superintendents, investment leaders, and church members for this support of God's cause.

Sabbath school offerings during 1966 for the Middle East Division amounted to \$28,337.95, or \$6.49 from each Sabbath school member.



May Abdelkarim is seen telling a story to branch Sabbath school children.

Adventist Welfare Societies Give Help In Beirut, Tehran, and Egypt

A natural disaster, a festive season, and endemic poverty each inspired local Seventh-day Adventists during recent weeks to do something for their neighbors.

The disaster struck in Lebanon, when on February 22, the Beirut river swollen with heavy rains burst through retaining walls and unleashed a fury of water. Among those affected were some members of the Bourj-Hammoud church and many students of the mission school there.

A relief center was set up in the church basement by a team of Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service workers led by Miss Ruby Williams, the Beirut area director. The welfare team served supper to those who had been forced to abandon their homes and gave blankets and mattresses to those who had lost most.

The festive season was the Persian New Year celebration in Tehran, Iran. New Year's day, March 21, is a day most Iranian children awake to find that they have new suits and dresses, but not all. The Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Society of the Tehran Farsi church, led by Mrs. Ivan Peacock, planned to spare some children from the disappointment.

Second-hand clothing from the welfare barrel didn't quite suit the New Year spirit, so the ladies purchased material and donated pieces they had been saving. They then sewed beautiful dresses for the girls and made knitted shirts for the boys. Suits and shoes were added where possible.

Muslim families from the society's file of needy families were selected

(Christian families had been presented gifts at Christmas) and visited by workers from the church. Instead of the usual handout of milk powder or used clothes, there were new clothes for the children.

The Tehran Farsi church reports gifts since winter began of 350 pieces of clothing valued at over \$700. In the same period 29 families were supplied with milk and flour. Other gifts from the society include beans, oil, and candy bars.

In Cairo, Egypt, and adjacent localities, where the Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Society fights poverty, workers reported the distribution of more than 7,000 pieces of winter clothing of different sizes to both men and women.

Hanna Gad, directing the distribution at Luxor in Upper Egypt, invited officials of that city, including the manager of the city council, to participate. On this one occasion, 120 families comprising 380 persons, received 600 pieces of clothing.

The report from Egypt noted that, although in all the provinces of Lower and Upper Egypt there were statements made by government officials lauding the Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Society, the goods "were distributed to needy persons amid praises to God." It is fitting that God should be recognized as the true source of the gifts.

Similarly, after the emergency had ended by the banks of the Beirut river, two ladies came back to say, "Thank you." "We know that you are real Christians," they said. "You are the only ones who helped us when we so much needed it."

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST



WELFARE SERVICE

1.

1. Hanna Gad looks on as a city official participates in Luxor distribution.

2.

2. Children in Tebran pose with Mrs. Peacock, showing New Year's clothes.

3.

3. Flood-evicted boys get their supper at the emergency center in Beirut.



4.

4. Welfare society ladies prepare hot food for the flood victims.

5. The Adventists gave blankets and help to those hardest hit by flood.

6. Mrs. Peacock hands a food parcel to a needy Muslim lady in Tebran.

6.



Iran Reports Use Of 13th Sabbath Overflow Offering

By Elder Kenneth Harding,
President of the Iran Section

The \$81,432.57 received on June 25, 1966, as the second largest second quarter 13th Sabbath overflow offering ever, came to Iran for a new elementary school in Tehran and for improvements at the Iran Adventist Academy. Divided 90/10, the major portion is being used immediately to build the new school. The remaining portion has been set aside for a multi-purpose building at the academy to be built as soon as additional funds can be gathered.

Two years before receiving the offering, we began looking for a piece of land. We inspected dozens of sites. At first we thought to purchase the property next to the mission headquarters, but because of its small size and other undesirable features our committee decided against it.

At last a desirable property was found about a kilometer from the headquarters. Large, about 2,000 square meters and almost square, it is in a residential section but near to the business area of the city. It is easily accessible, but not on a through street.

The architect's plan for the school, as approved by the responsible committees, calls for a two-story building with eight large classrooms. A large multi-purpose room will provide an auditorium seating 300 to 400 persons, a dining room for serving lunches to as many as 200 students, and an indoor play area the size of a volley ball court. Provision is also made for a library, administrative offices, and a teachers' lounge.

Miss Anoosh Keshishzadeh, principal of the school, now conducts classes in a rented building with the help of four full-time and three part-time teachers, all Seventh-day Adventists. The enrollment of 75 students in grades one through six is expected next year to exceed 100. The lessons are taught in Farsi, but English and Armenian are taught as languages from the first grade.

We look forward to the day when the new school will be completed and thank the many members of the world church who have helped to make this possible.



Some of the 130 persons who attended a parent-teacher meeting of the 402-pupil Museitbeh school, February 22, in the school auditorium are seen here listening to a talk on discipline by Elder F. C. Webster. The Museitbeh school is a self-supporting "mission" type school. Alfred Akar is the principal.

Successful Public Meetings are Held in Cairo, Baghdad, Zerqa, Beirut, and Tehran

RECORD CAIRO AUDIENCE HEARS SABBATH TRUTH

The series of public meetings conducted by Elder Charles D. Brooks at the Cairo Center continues to draw capacity crowds after the presentation of the Sabbath truth, according to reports in Beirut. "A good number are now attending the Sabbath morning services."

Church congregations at the center, Heliopolis, and Gabal Asfar are supporting the meetings by daily prayer and fasting every Sabbath. The series of meetings, which began January 29, is currently being conducted four evenings a week.

Elder Brooks, who is on loan to the Middle East Division from his post as evangelist in the Columbia Union, is expected to give his final sermon in the series April 6, but the public meetings will continue April 14 through June 30 with Elder Chafic Srour, Division evangelist, as the speaker.

ELDER SROUR COMPLETES SERIES IN BAGHDAD

Elder Srour has announced at the close of a series of public meetings in Baghdad, April 1, plans for the baptism of several persons. He reported finding a good interest in the truth among the people there.

The Baghdad meetings have been held three nights a week in the Baghdad church. Although the series began February 5 during cold weather, the

large church hall has been almost full. Personal work has been emphasized, he explains, with he and Elder Said Tooma engaged in house-to-house visitation as late as 11:00 p.m.

NEW INTEREST

IN ZERQA, JORDAN

New interest is discovered in Zerqa, Jordan. There Elder Mousa Azar conducts evangelistic meetings three times weekly in rented quarters. He is assisted by Bishara Taweel. An average of fifty or more persons are crowding the room to hear the presentations of doctrine, he reports.

Continued next column



Elder Charles D. Brooks, the speaker for the Cairo Center series.

The Sabbath has been explained and several persons show interest. Special Sabbath services have been begun on Friday night and Sabbath morning. Elder Azar gives a sermon on Friday night, and Brother Taweel leads the Sabbath morning meeting. Eighteen persons are reported coming regularly for Sabbath morning.

Zerqa is a large town north-east of Amman. Adventist families have sometimes lived there temporarily in connection with employment at a nearby military base, but there is no church or company organized there. It is hoped that the present interest may lead to an established work in that city.

**PROGRAM IN BEIRUT
ATTRACTS FRESH AUDIENCE**

A new audience is coming to the Beirut Adventist Center, Elder Harley Bresee, the center director, explains, reporting a change of emphasis in the center program to make it attractive to non-Christians. After reaching a period of low interest, attendance at the center in being revived by the introduction of the new program.

A series of health lectures was given in December and January by Doctor Lamp under the title, "Science Speaks." The title has been continued for a weekly meeting Wednesdays to hold this audience. English classes were begun March 1. Sewing classes are also in progress and other similar projects are planned. A religious talk is given Friday evenings. Interest in the center has increased and Bresee reports approximately 80 per cent of those attending are non-Christian.

**ELDER DARNELL CHANGES
APPROACH IN TEHRAN**

Elder Robert Darnell, Division field secretary, conducted a series of 13 meetings, February 17 to March 17, at the Tehran Adventist Center, assisted by translators John Minassian and Arsen Keshishzadeh. Departing from the usual preaching presentation based upon explaining a series of Bible verses, Darnell spoke simply from notes in hand and made no use of hymns or public prayers.

The subjects were chosen to bolster faith in God, to lead to deeper spirituality, and to identify the Seventh-day Adventists as true believers with the reform message for this time. Among the topics presented were Astronomy, Evolution, God's Character, Prophecy, the Resurrection, the Books of Judgment, Heaven and Sin. The doctrines

of the Judgment, the Sabbath, and the State of the Dead were given special attention.

The method employed was lectures making ample use of scientific, literary and historical materials. Biblical material was used throughout the series, chiefly by narrative accounts of incidents in the lives of the prophets. These illustrated or provided the setting for the Biblical statements used. The lives and sayings of the prophets were treated in typically Muslim style and quotations were made from the Qur'an and Muslim traditions where appropriate. The lecturer spoke in an atmosphere of respect for Islam, its book and its prophet.

The audience was characterized by three points not usually encountered in public religious meetings for Muslims in the Middle East. 1) The same persons continued to attend regularly through the entire series. 2) The persons attending represented a high level of education and social standing, including lawyers, physicians, teachers, and university students. 3) The audience consisted of pious Muslims, rather than secularized or fringe Muslims, but who listened in an investigative rather than an argumentative spirit.

Many of the audience were first attracted to the center by a series of health meetings held last August by Dr. Herschel Lamp, the division medical department secretary. Another large group was made up from students attending English classes at the Center. Advertising in the newspapers brought in many others. The series of lectures was preceded by three meetings in which Dr. Lamp and Elder Darnell shared the platform.

**S.S. Workshop Held
For Lebanon Workers**

Fifty-two persons from six Sabbath Schools in Lebanon attended a Sabbath School Workshop, February 5, at Middle East College. The workshop was led by Mrs. Robert Mills and her assistant, Miss Mary Ghazal, both of the Division office. Mrs. Mills had earlier conducted similar workshops in New York.

The three-and-one-half-hour session was spent both in instruction and activity. Topics discussed included storytelling, visual aids, school room decorations, and the use of action songs. The delegates prepared patterns for use in providing materials for their home Sabbath schools.

"The part that impressed me most about the meeting," remarked the Division Sabbath School department leader, D. L. Chappell, "was the way it stimulated the delegates to think of new ways to use the ideas that Mrs. Mills had given them."

Secondary Schools

Plans to boost Adventist secondary education in Lebanon were approved at a meeting of the Middle East Division committee, March 22. The committee approved building a third story on the Museitbeh school and adding classes to complete the secondary system.

A second action approved plans by the secondary school at Middle East College to build new facilities and begin operation of a large "mission" type school to use English as the principal medium of instruction.

Principals of the schools are Alfred Akar at Museitbeh and Jad Katrib at Middle East College.



Mrs. Mills, workshop director (2nd right), demonstrates a pattern.

Abney Fund is Given to Benghazi Hospital For Conducting Charity Work

By Elder R. C. Mills,
Treasurer of the Middle East Division

Nancy Abney was fifteen and a farmer's daughter in upstate New York. Her 4-H Club (Hand, Heart, Head, Health), made up of young farmers was having an outing. To close the day, all sat on logs and stumps while a man who had been a missionary in the Orient told them stories.

What a different way of life people in other lands live! They read backwards, and from top of page to bottom. They pour water from a kettle toward themselves, rather than away. They cut wood with a saw by pulling on the blade instead of pushing. They motion for another to come like westerners wave goodbye. "But," said the missionary, "when they accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour, they all look for the same Heaven we do, and they pray to the same God who hears and answers them and us."

The man told of thrills, dangers, and joys in the life of the missionary, and urged the young folk to prepare their own lives for service if called upon.

The girl told her mother at home that she had made two decisions that afternoon: (1) She was going to be a Seventh-day Adventist like the missionary was, and (2) someday she hoped to be a missionary herself. Mother and daughter made contact with the Adventist minister nearby.

A few months later they were both members of the church, Nancy was enrolled in an Adventist school, and the mother was a part-time literature evangelist. Nancy, too, earned scholarships during the summers between college years.

Last July, Nancy and her mother went to the conference headquarters in Syracuse to visit the former missionary who had told the stories, because he was the treasurer of the conference. They told him about some money that was paid to them by the government for permission to build a super-highway through their property. Nancy said she wanted \$2,000 of the money to go to missions, to provide medical

care for poor people, and asked if the conference treasurer could suggest a worthy field.

It was with great interest that he listened, because he had just been appointed by the General Conference two weeks before to be treasurer of the Middle East Division. Naturally he suggested that he would be most happy to take the money with him to the Middle East and find the best place to spend it.

So it was that last November, at the annual Division meeting, the check from Nancy and her mother was given to Doctor Clifford Ludington to be used in the Benghazi Adventist Hospital to help poor patients.

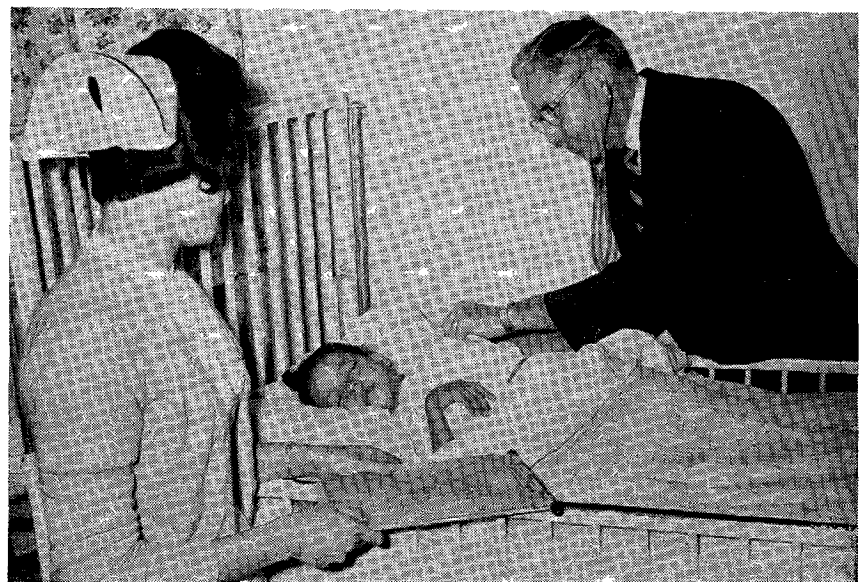
Proper timing has always been a strong feature in the Lord's work. A letter written in appreciation for the gift, and enclosing a picture of the presentation, arrived in New York while Nancy was home on vacation from college and that very day another check was received by her mother and her for payment by an electric company for a right-of-way across the same property. Back to the Middle East Di-

vision treasurer came another check for nearly the same amount as the first gift.

Dr. Ludington is using the money to give free hospital care and medicine to the poor in Libya. How happy we are for the consecration of these new members in New York State, and for their gifts to our work. And how grateful I am that a few simple stories from mission lands told to a group of young farmers that hot Sunday afternoon started two precious souls on their way to the Kingdom and brought the Middle East such a wonderful gift.



Nancy Abney, who first heard of Adventists through Missionary Mills.



Dr. Clifford Ludington examines a young patient in the Benghazi Hospital who is being helped by the Abney fund. Nurse Nadia Nashed assists.



Elder Webster (right) is seen welcoming the Jopas (Khabbaz) family to the Middle East Division, upon their arrival at Beirut airport, March 13. Elder Jopas has been appointed Division evangelist. He was born in Argentina and was graduated (1946) with a B.A. in theology from River Plate College and (1959) with an M.A. in education from Buenos Aires University. He has served primarily as a public evangelist. For five years he was the Austral Union evangelist. He comes to the Middle East from Washington, D. C., where he directed the Search for Happiness campaign, a Spanish language effort which resulted in 42 persons baptized and a second Spanish church organized in that city. Seen in the picture are other members of the family. At the left are daughter Estela, age 14, and Mrs. Jopas, formerly Oliva Gerber of Uruguay, also a graduate of River Plate College. She is a secretary and has worked in the Voice of Prophecy office at Glendale. Son Carlos, 19, and daughter Norma, 15, are seen to the right of their father.

New Missionaries



Sandra and Gerald Kovalski with their children Karen and Gerald, Jr., who arrived in Iran, February 6, from the Florida Conference. They are graduates of Southern Missionary College. Engaged in full-time language study, they are living in Tebran.



Children seen in Sabbath school at Aramoun, Lebanon, during a special program for Sabbath School Rally Day, March. 11

FROM HERE AND THERE

IRAN

Elder Harold L. Gray, an American missionary under appointment to the Middle East Division, has been named successor to Elder Kenneth Harding as president of the Iran Section. Elder Harding and his family plan to return this summer to the United States. Elder Gray is expected to arrive the middle of June.

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

The 1967 summer school session has been announced for July 5 to August 16. Ignatious Yacoub was named director.

A tour of Europe, good for six quarter hours academic credit in the fields of history and literature, is planned August 20 to September 21 under the direction of Dale Hepker, head of the English department. Similar study tours of Middle East areas are planned for the following years.

The student-conducted week of religious emphasis was held this year February 17 through 25, using the theme "Christ is the Center." The pro-

grams were planned by the College MV society. Visitor to the campus Elder Paul Sundquist, MV department secretary for the Northern European Division, gave two inspiring talks.

James Stephan, currently principal of the Beirut Overseas School, has been called to head the music department.

Ignatious and Mary Yacoub have



Officers of the class of 1967 at Middle East College, left to right: George Terzibashian (president), Diran Keusgerian (vice-president), Daniel Minassian (chaplain), Nabida Hamzi (secretary-treasurer), and class sponsor Ignatious Yacoub.

been receiving good wishes from friends and acquaintances on the occasion of the birth of Hilda Maria, February 15. Five days later Donny Britt was born to the Hepker family where he joins brothers Devin and David.

The engagement of Miss June Soper was announced as a surprise during the final act of a recent variety program on campus. She is to marry William Russell, an optometrist of Napa, California, who is the brother of Elder James Russell here.

The Voice of MEC, a student paper representing Middle East College, but which has been in hibernation for several years, came out one bright morning this March. It was published as number 1 of volume 7.

THE BEST REASON

Some people pay tithe and give offerings to get a blessing.

True, God tells us that if we faithfully do this, He will "pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." So one may drop his tithes and his offerings into the basket, then sit back, smugly thinking within himself, "There, Lord, I have done my bit. Now You do Your part." Nor is the Lord remiss in fulfilling His promise. The faithful donor does receive a blessing. This, however, is not the best reason for paying tithe and giving offerings.

Some do it to avoid a curse.

They remember reading in Malachi 3 that God called the Jews robbers and said, "Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." And He had Haggai tell them, "Ye have sown much, and bring in little; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Ye looked for much, and lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it." So one may pay tithe and give offerings for the same reason (he feels) that a farmer pays tribute to bandits to keep them from spoiling his crops or burning his barns. To such, it is somewhat like paying dues to a trade union, or a tip to a parking lot helper so he won't get his tires slashed or sand put in his benzine tank. God is almost thought of as one practicing extortion. This most certainly, is not the best, or even a fair reason for paying tithe and giving offerings.

The true Christian renders his tithes and offerings to God for neither of these reasons. He is not looking for anything specifically for himself as the result of his faithfulness. He doesn't do it because he is afraid of what will happen to him if he doesn't. He knows that God "so loved" that He "gave His only begotten Son" as a ransom for him. He knows also that there are millions of lost souls waiting for the light of Truth and it takes money to send the light to them. He desires, yes desperately, to be with Jesus in the earth made new, but he wants many others to be there too.

This is reason enough for the true Christian to pay tithe and give offerings. Could there be a purer, better one?

R. C. Mills

KEEP CHEERFUL

Sometimes the power of the world presses in upon us. Even the church of God seems at times near ruin as worldly aims obsess its members. But . . . "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Sometimes others are preferred. We may be slighted. Others less deserving, it seems, may be praised and our own work unnoticed. But our eternal reward is no less sure. "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Our cars, our houses, our budget for entertainment may lack much of what we desire. Viewing our neighbor's bounty, we strive for a spirit of contentment. "Rejoice in the Lord."

"Unless you cultivate a cheerful, happy, grateful frame of mind, Satan will eventually lead you captive at his will." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 704.

Adventist World

SYRIAN LEADS WORLD

First in the world among Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelists in total value of literature sold during 1966, is Michael Kabbas, formerly of Syria. Working in south-eastern California, he sold for \$36,413.90 in 2041 hours. Outstanding among student colporteurs was Camille Abdul-karim, who working 467 hours in the Potomac conference delivered \$10,321 worth of literature.

NORWAY STUDIES 5-DAY PLAN

The Norwegian Government has Dr. Kjell Bjartveit making a full assessment of the Five-Day Plan as conducted by Seventh-day Adventists, reports E. J. Folkenberg, General Conference Temperance department secretary now in Europe. "He has discovered that the statistical results are better than any other program; that it is effective with larger and smaller groups to the same degree and that it is five times less expensive than any other program attempted in Scandinavia." To date nineteen Five-Day Plans have been held in Norway.

—Hotline

REXALL DONATES MEDICINES

The Rexall Drug Company of Los Angeles, California, recently donated vitamins valued at \$40,000 to the alumni association of Lima Linda University for use in mission hospitals and clinics around the world. Rexal officials announced plans for other gifts in the future. Dr. Gus Hoehn, a former missionary to Uganda, has for eighteen years met weekly at the alumni association headquarters with a crew of helpers to sort and pack medicines for mission use. The drugs, mostly sample medicines, are estimated to total in value more than \$150,000 annually.

MV'S SPONSOR STUDENT

For ten years C. Y. Kyereme, principal and founder of a Seventh-day Adventist training college in Ghana wanted to come to America for graduate education, but it had been impossible for him to leave his country, Ghana. His dream was realized when last year the Andrews University MV society, as one of their annual projects, raised enough money to sponsor an overseas teacher for one year of graduate study at Andrews. He and his family, which joined him in January, will return to Ghana next August after he has received his Master of Arts in education.

Middle East Messenger

Robert Darnell Editor

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"Thank God There are People Like You!" College Faculty

By Elder Robert H. Pierson

Continued from page one

One morning at 3 o'clock Elder M. H. Jensen and his helpers in New York City received a call. One hundred and seven fire victims forced out into the cold needed clothing and care. Soon the Seventh-day Adventist welfare team was helping these unfortunate people. As Elder Jensen went about his work, a well-dressed man watching the operations carefully, shaking his head with approval, said "Thank God, there are people in the world like you—people who care enough to help at a time like this!"

"Thank God there are people like you!" What a challenge to every Seventh-day Adventist to maintain the fine tradition of service the Lord has enabled us to build up through the years! During 1967 your Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service shipped clothing and food to 36 countries. One of the emergency shipments went to earthquake-rocked Turkey. Others to Lebanon and Egypt.

Last year nearly three million dollars worth of medicines, food, and clothing were shipped to the needy around the world. No doubt thousands of unfortunate disaster victims said or thought, "Thank God there are people in the world like you—people who care enough to help in times of need."

And this service pays well in souls and good will. In Iloilo City Philippines, one of the worst fires since the turn of the century destroyed 15 blocks of the city. Fifty million dollars worth of damage was done in just a few hours' time. Local Seventh-day Adventist welfare leaders were on the job. SAWS in Manila sent relief clothing and foodstuff immediately. Appreciation on the part of the local people was freely expressed.

The response was the same in Colombia when our people went to the aid of flood victims. The mayor and policemen of one community escorted our members from door to door, passing out food, clothing, and words of encouragement. A letter from the city fathers, announcements in the paper and over the radio, all praised the effective help rendered by Seventh-day Adventists in the time of need.

In Turkey, in the Philippines, and

in Colombia people affirmed, "We thank God there are people like you!"

On May 13 the annual Disaster and Famine Relief Offering will be received in all of the churches. Are you the kind of Seventh-day Adventist that people thank God for? Shall not you and I both reveal how much we care for those whom violent misfortune has rendered destitute by giving liberally on this Sabbath? May it be said of each one of us, "Thank God there are people like you—people who care enough to help at a time like this!"

academic departments. Work, service, and industrial supervisors and staff continue as during the 1966-67 school year. A store manager to replace resigning Nicola Esber will be appointed later.

Mrs. Widad Faimann will continue as dean of women and Ernest Waring will return as dean of men. Dale Hepker, in addition to positions in the division of languages and literature, will direct the school of intensive English.

The board also continued the sponsorship of staff members for advanced study and recommended Henry Melki, head of the Arabic department, for leave to do graduate studies.

**A
HEAVEN
APPOINTED
WORK...**



Every gospel worker should feel that the giving of instruction in the principles of healthful living is a part of his appointed work. Of this there is great need, and the world is open for it.

—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 147

* * *

Special CALL TO HEALTH rates for SDA Members

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS — one year, LL. 3.00
 CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS (10 or more copies to one address)
 each subscription — one year, LL. 2.75

* * *

"CALL TO HEALTH" CAMPAIGN-APRIL 22-29



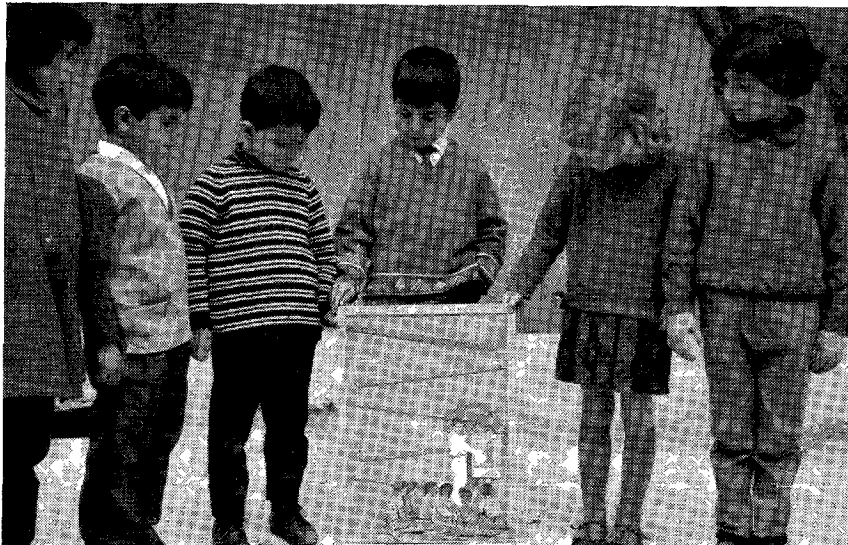
Members of the Egypt Section committee elected at a constituency meeting in Cairo, March 6. First row, left to right: Chafic Ghali, Habib Ghali, Housni Kolta. Back rows: Fuad Guirguis, Samaan Fangary, Naguib Mossad, Hanna Malaka, Nassif Boutros, Fakbry Naguib, Abadir Abdelmessih, and Shebata Guindi.

Higgins to Visit Division; Speaks at Institutes

Elder W. A. Higgins, associate secretary of the General Conference publishing department, will be the main instructor at the literature evangelist training institutes to be held at Middle East College, April 14 to 18, and at the Egypt Adventist Theological Institute, April 19 to 24, it was announced by D. L. Chappell, Division publishing secretary.

Prior to joining the General Conference staff, Elder Higgins served as head of the publishing departments in different union conferences of the North American and Trans-African divisions.

Elder Higgins will also speak at Sabbath services in the Beirut Musseitbeh and the Cairo Center churches. He will take part in the "Adventist Books on Parade" program planned for April 15 in the Beirut Center church.



Children of the Amman Sabbath school in Jordan watch a coin (top row) travel down the tracks of their offering device.

Church Calendar

SPECIAL DAYS

April	1	Magazine Evangelism
April	15-22	Health Emphasis
April	22-29	Call to Health
May	6	Health and Welfare Evangelism

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

April	1	Church Missionary
April	8	Church Expense
April	15	Local Section
April	22	Poor Fund
April	29	Call to Health
May	6	Church Missionary
May	13	Disaster and Famine Relief
May	20	Local Section
May	27	Church Expense

Division Directory

President	F. C. Webster
Secretary	R. L. Jacobs
Treasurer and Auditor ...	R. C. Mills
Field Secretary	Robert Darnell
Cashier and Assistant Auditor	R. W. Wilmot
Section I Cashier and Accountant	Sabah Isbir

DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES

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Ministerial and Radio	L. Curtis Miller
MV and Temperance ...	A. A. Haddad
MV (Acting) and Lay Activities	Manoug Nazirian
Publishing and Sabbath School	D. L. Chappell
Public Relations, Religious Liberty, & Religious Research	Robert Darnell
Temperance (Acting) and Medical	H. C. Lamp



Participants in the Christmas program given last December at Mosul, Iraq.