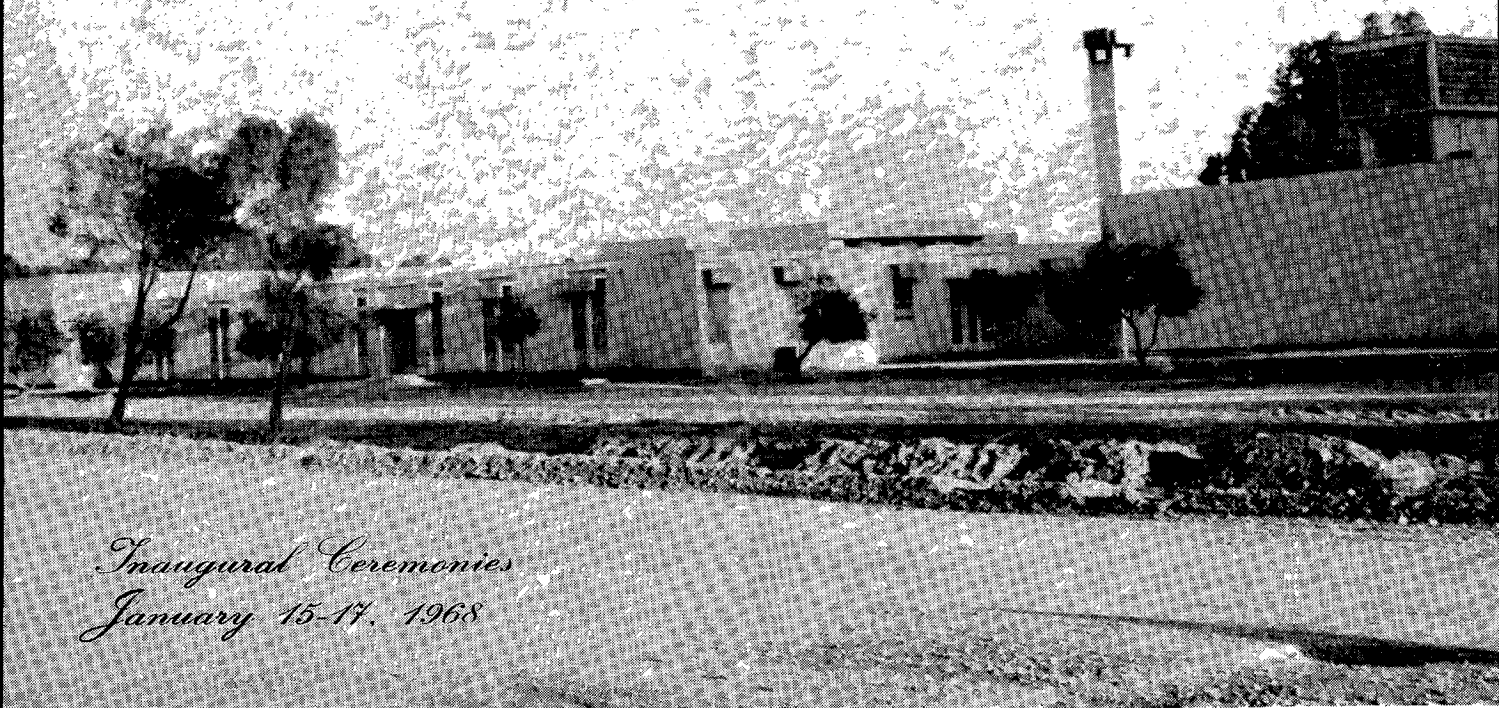


The New

Benghazi Adventist Hospital

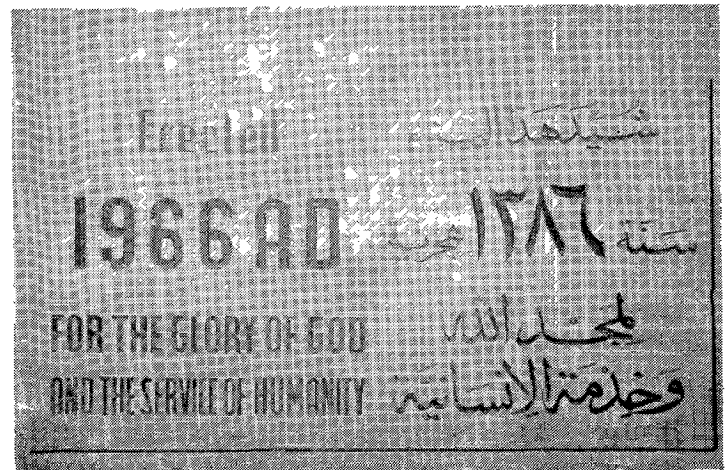


*Inaugural Ceremonies
January 15-17, 1968*

COMPLETED: ANOTHER 13TH SABBATH PROJECT

Clinical conference.

Founded on faith, hope, and love.







TALKING TOGETHER

BREAKTHROUGH

The motto that hung on the wall behind the platform during the November Quadrennial Council of the Middle East Division made an indelible impression upon all who viewed it during the proceedings of each day. Not only did the word "breakthrough" become a visual reminder of what God is beginning to do for us, but the theme of "breakthrough" has become interwoven in our thinking to the extent that it has become the predominant concept of our ministry for the Lord.

The rhythm of devotion with which we have approached the ministry of God in the days of yesterday no longer seems appropriate. The energies with which we have pursued the giving of the Gospel seem to be feeble attempts as we now view them in the environment of the "breakthrough" for God.

Where does the **BREAKTHROUGH** begin? It begins first in the heart experience of our workers and believers. God breaks through the walls of our hearts. His presence so fills the recesses of our lives that there remains no longer room for suspicion, criticism, or fault-finding. There is no longer any place for selfishness that would seek to elevate oneself and destroy his brother. There is no room for envy which leads one to yearn for the position or possessions of his brother while deploring his own lowly lot or meager belongings. There is no longer a place for the besetting sin that has in the past stunted spiritual vitality. The consciousness of forgiveness and victory has caused the spirit of heaven to **BREAK THROUGH** into our hearts.

This is the **BREAKTHROUGH** forming the catalyst that makes it possible for us, as a united people, to **BREAK THROUGH** the barriers men have built up in their lives against the preaching of the Gospel.

We all recall the marvels of Pentecost. We remember that those days immediately preceding that tremendous hour for the Church were days of prayer, confession of sins, and of making wrongs right. And then the promised blessing came. The Church was so filled with power that the Gospel went forth in a totally different way than before. The apostles had new zeal; their words had new power. The passion to tell others what Jesus had done for them completely dominated their lives, and the earnestness with which they communicated truth to others brought results completely unparalleled by anything that had ever happened during all the previous 4,000 years in which God had been seeking for the allegiance of men's hearts.

It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it. Ellen G. White: *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 507.

May the **BREAKTHROUGH** of the latter rain come now; may it fall on hearts that are prepared to receive it; and may it prepare for Jesus' coming all who seek a pure life and heart.





Director of Nurses Evangeline Voih and Staff Nurse Badia Issa are all smiles as they visit a nurses' station in the new Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

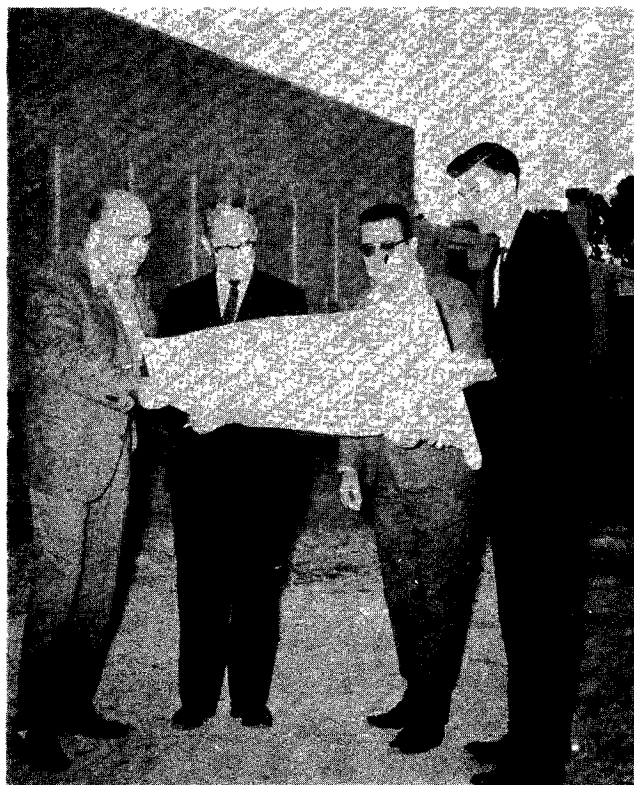
Breakthrough in Benghazi:

To Enlighten Libya, a New Hospital

Medical Director Clifford Ludington (second from left) and Business Manager Cleo Johnson (right) check plans with Whiting Associates' on-the-scene project manager (left) and CAT Co.'s construction boss (third from left).

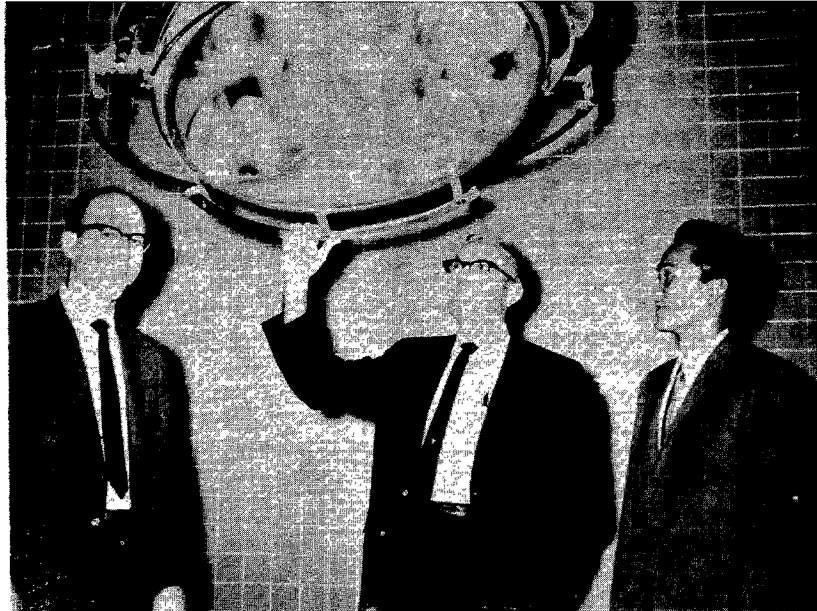


Medical Technologist Eliseo Oliverio and Laboratory Director Darrell McConnell will accomplish their vital tasks more efficiently in the new facility.



These men helped build the new Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

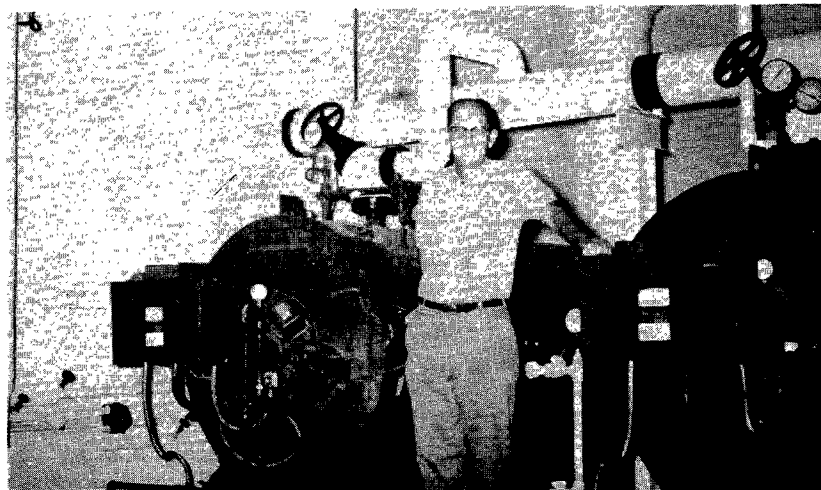




Drs. Don Fahrbach, Clifford Ludington, and Michael Oliverio anticipate spending many hours in the modern hospital's up-to-date surgical suite.



Surgical Nurse Ruth Tobiassen stands by the autoclave located in the hospital's central service.



Engineer Russell Nolin is pleased with the medical unit's powerplant.

The President's Report

BY FREDERICK C. WEBSTER

We have gathered in another Quadrennial Council of the Middle East Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

A council such as this is held so that we may pause briefly in our conquests to glance backward at the happenings of the past, and then quite at the same time look forward that we might coordinate and concentrate our efforts for the advances God has designed for the future.

Our backward glance would lead us to express thankful appreciation for the dedicated leaders who preceded us in the Middle East Division.

But as we view the past I fear we have had much too small a concept of what should have been attempted for God; I fear we have failed to press the conquest for souls with all the energies that God has proportioned to us; I fear we have become accustomed

Breakthrough in Broumanna

The 1967 Quadrennial Council

to and satisfied with a rhythm of small achievements when we should have accomplished much more; I fear we have been prisoners of fear: fear of what might happen to us or to the church if we boldly launched forth to tell the large community of our Muslim brethren the wonderful story of salvation through Jesus Christ.

In reality, Seventh-day Adventists are not apt at looking backward. We are ever looking toward tomorrow. But this should not lead us to be visionary or unrealistic about today or heedless of our mistakes and failures of yesterday.

I am convinced the time has come when we must move into an all-out conquest for the souls of those from all religious communities. Half-hearted efforts will in no way suffice. Cautious conservatism is not what the church in the Middle East needs today. Bold and aggressive attitudes and actions must be undertaken by every salaried worker and every church member within this territory. We must realize every morning as we arise that we are sent by God to lead men and women to accept the salvation that heaven offers.

Our church with its divinely ordained organization must be so completely dominated by the Holy Spirit that all

of its members will be completely involved in telling the story of salvation to others.

The density of Seventh-day Adventists in the lands of the Middle East Division is 51,755 inhabitants to each Seventh-day Adventist. What a tremendous task before us to evangelize so great a number! But more than that it is a glorious challenge! And God's people have always risen to meet a challenge. We will arise to meet this great challenge also.

A year ago we decided that under the blessings of the Holy Spirit we would covenant with God to work untiringly toward tripling our church membership during the present quadrennium. Our first steps toward this achievement have been rather faltering. We are considerably behind schedule. But it is, thank God, still a very realistic goal when we realize the great power of the Holy Spirit who has promised to be our associate in this task.

The catalyst for Pentecost was love, unity, confession of sins, and earnest prayer. A repetition of that experience among our workers and believers in the Middle East today will produce equal—of not greater—results. To that end I join you today in complete dedication to God.

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION OFFICERS



Treasurer Mills, President Webster, Secretary Jacobs.

The Secretary's Report

BY RAY L. JACOBS

A recent letter from a country in which we have no organized church tells of a Sabbath School that is meeting regularly. The writer recalled past unfaithfulness, but reported his recent rededication to God. He expressed joy that a friend to whom he had brought the message was now preparing for baptism.

A man walking down a street in Beirut saw the sign in front of our physiotherapy clinic. He entered. Leif Jensen treated the man's shoulder—and talked to his heart. Result: the man and his family have decided to keep God's commandments.

In Iran, following Voice of Prophecy lessons and personal studies, a young man visited the annual camp meeting to see if Adventists really do live in harmony with what they teach. Convinced that they do, he himself was baptized.

Such reports—and others—encourage us to believe that God is ready to pour out a special blessing on the work in the Middle East. We must not look at past records as a measure of what we may expect in the future.

For the past five-year period the net membership gain was almost exactly

MEMBERSHIP											
December 31 Reports, Five-year Intervals											
	CYPRUS	EGYPT	IRAN	IRAQ	JORDAN	LEBANON	LIBYA	SUDAN	SYRIA	TURKEY	DIVISION
1956	24	855	229	179	164	406	0	0	140	65	2,064
1961	28	790	260	156	167	304	25	3	164	65	2,170
1966	15	1,079	254	180	154	555	50	3	168	59	2,537
MEMBERSHIP INCREASE (DECREASE)											
Five-year Periods											
1957-61	4	(65)	39	(23)	3	96	25	3	24	0	106
1962-66	(13)	289	(14)	24	(13)	51	25	0	24	(5)	367
ORGANIZED CHURCHES											
1962	1	16	7	4	3	6	1	0	4	1	43
1966	1	14	7	4	3	6	1	0	5	1	42
WORKERS											
	Ordained Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Credentialed Bible Inst.	Licensed Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Cred. or Lic. Lit. Evang.	All Others				Total Workers
1962	46	34	4	19	103	0	68				174
1966	44	67	3	21	142	5	80				362

*See NOTE on previous page.

BAPTISMS											
	CYPRUS	EGYPT	IRAN	IRAQ	JORDAN	LEBANON	LIBYA	SUDAN	SYRIA	TURKEY	DIVISION
1957	0	91	12	9	17	25	0	0	15	3	173
1958	0	37	0	17	12	16	0	0	10	0	150
1959	4	24	4	1	14	27	0	0	12	0	146
1960	1	27	18	4	21	32	0	0	1	4	169
1961	2	67	12	5	12	45	0	1	7	0	131
Total for 5-yr. period	7	216	47	26	75	145	0	1	46	15	709
1962	0	66	42	13	26	15	0	0	7	0	171
1963	0	72	10	1	1	45	0	0	1	5	136
1964	0	108	7	10	5	33	0	0	4	1	168
1965	0	95	7	8	7	9	0	0	3	1	131
1966	0	56	12	12	2	32	1	0	9	0	124
Total for 5-yr. period	0	400	78	44	41	134	1	0	24	8	730
NOTE: For the years 1957 and 1958, Lebanon and Syria were one mission and the figures have been divided arbitrarily.											
APOSTASIES											
Total for 5 yrs.											
1957-1961	5	460	3	17	57	52	0	0	16	0	605
1962-1966	3	38	79	8	51	56	1	0	0	7	243

one per full-time worker. We are not proud of the fact that with 362 regular workers we have a net membership gain of only 367.

One reason for these meager gains is the fact that for every twelve candidates who were baptized into the church, five slipped out the back door. In some fields every time a member was accepted into the church another was dropped. By God's help this must be corrected.

Perhaps the task to be accomplished can be better visualized if we imagine our 42 organized churches distributed equally over the land area of the Di-

vision. Each district would then have an area of 200,000 square kilometers—over nineteen times the size of the Republic of Lebanon!

We are responsible to God for the

towns and cities of the Middle East. We trust that the accompanying statistical reports may serve as a challenge to each one to renewed consecration and effort.

The Treasurer's Report

BY ROBERT C. MILLS

Now for a look at the financial reports. First, a summary of all tithes and mission offerings received by all Division fields. The year 1966 produced the highest receipts of mission offerings of all kinds, although the tithe received was not as much as the three years preceding it. We are thankful, however, for almost a million dollars received in tithe during the five year period.

Next, a revealing comparison of local and appropriated income for our several fields. A total of \$3,021,537.50 was received from the General Conference in base and special appropriations during the years 1962 to 1966. For this help we are exceedingly grateful. With regard to operating income, more than half—51%—of all income, or four million dollars, was received by our division, section, and institution offices from members, patients, students, and literature sales locally.

Finally, a comparison of various financial data from the balance sheets

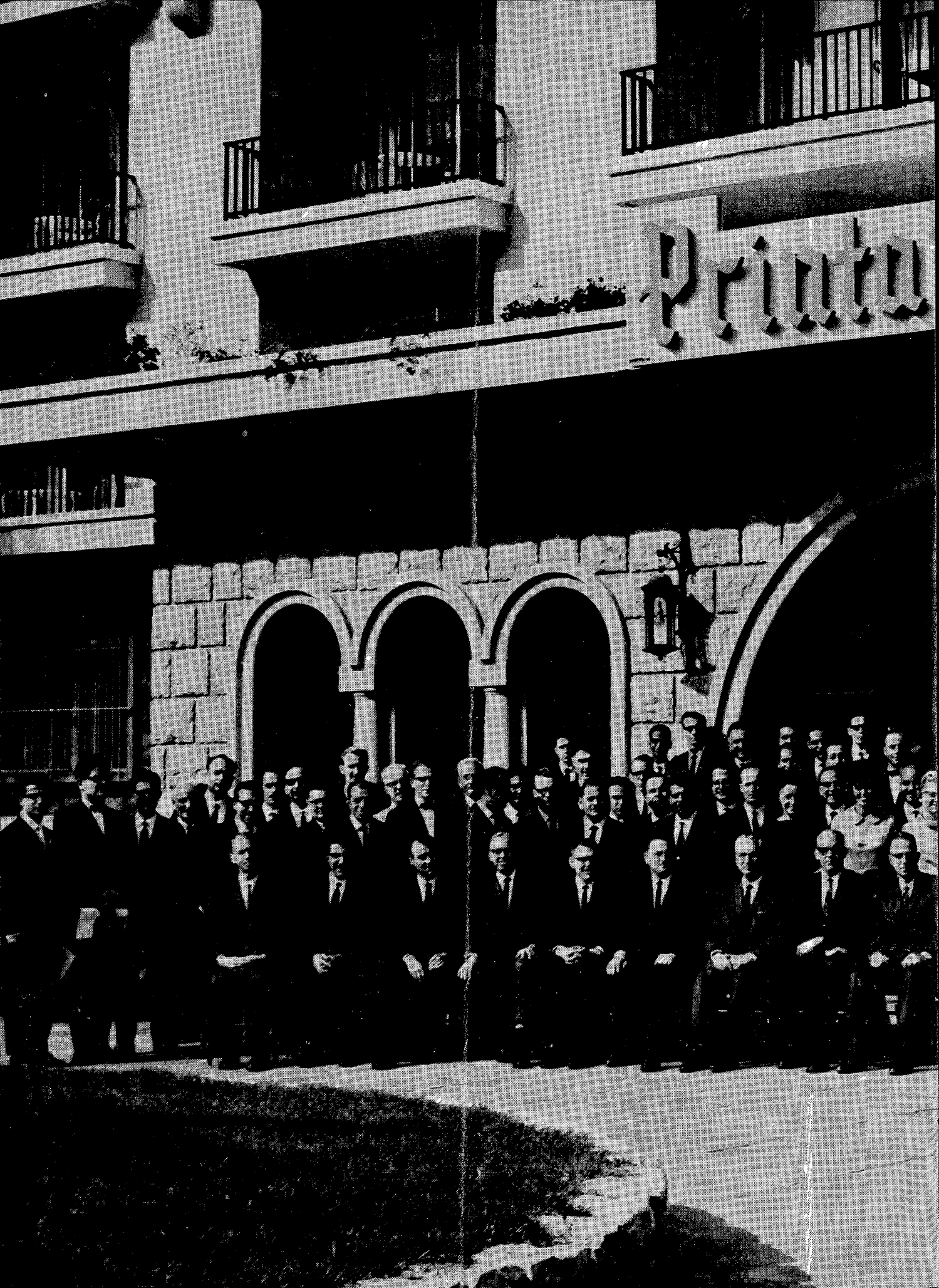
See *TREASURER'S REPORT*, p. 10

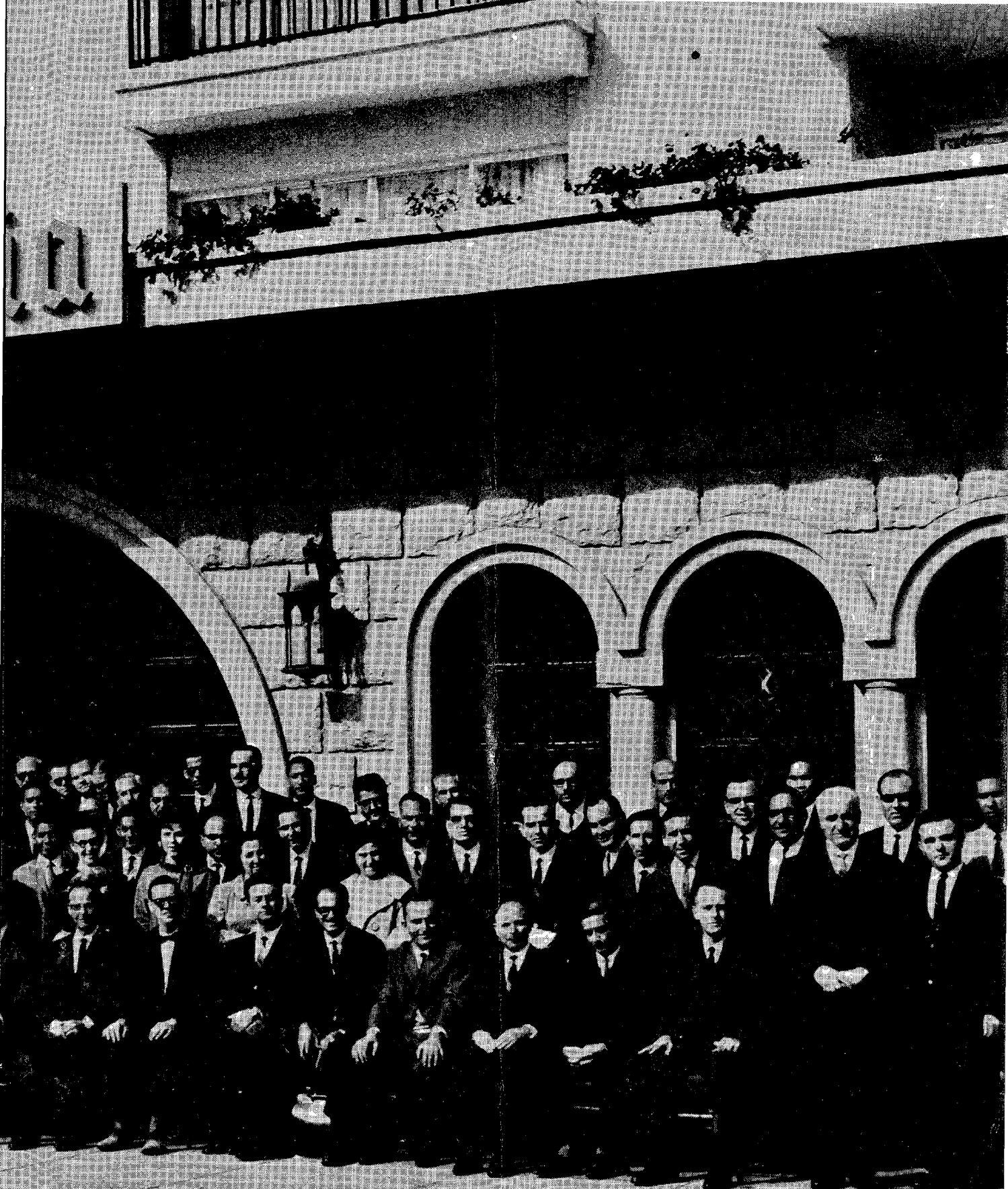
MIDDLE EAST DIVISION TOTAL TITHES AND OFFERINGS Five Years 1962 - 1966 (Values in U.S. Dollars at Fixed Rates of Exchange)

YEAR	TITHE	S.S. OFFER.	INGATHERING	TOTAL MISSIONS
1962	133,806.00	16,052.89	1,828.31	17,994.03
1963	193,951.00	20,243.06	6,954.04	33,122.07
1964	201,378.00	19,581.15	4,349.92	24,054.12
1965	277,112.00	25,225.31	8,001.43	33,490.61
1966	175,957.00	28,409.95	5,012.91	33,510.10
TOTALS FOR FIVE YEARS	982,204.00	109,542.36	26,146.61	142,170.93

MIDDLE EAST DIVISION Total Earned and Appropriated Operating Income Five Years 1962 - 1966 (Figures in U.S. Dollars @ Fixed Rates of Exchange)

Organization	Total Operating Income	Local (or Earned) Income	Percent of Total	Operating Appropriations Received	Percent of Total
Cyprus Section	53,633.10	19,740.19	36%	33,884.91	64%
Egypt Section	380,432.23	69,310.27	13%	311,171.96	82%
Iran Section	507,968.53	296,029.79	53%	211,938.79	42%
Iraq Section	405,005.97	273,153.32	63%	126,852.65	32%
Jordan Section	167,112.37	48,504.15	29%	118,608.22	71%
Lebanon Section	459,672.39	204,265.90	44%	255,406.49	56%
Syria Section	66,359.63	13,069.13	19%	53,290.55	81%
Turkey Section	73,427.76	24,076.33	32%	49,351.43	68%
Benghazi Hosp.	1,131,254.71	1,061,540.54	93%	69,714.17	7%
M. E. College	1,163,540.00	936,973.63	80%	226,566.32	20%
M. E. Press	303,842.27	703,777.15	37%	100,065.12	13%
Div. Office and Overseas	2,734,596.63	331,124.31	12%	2,403,472.32	88%
Grand Totals	7,946,895.69	3,986,572.76	51%	3,960,322.93	49%
Average Per Yr.	1,589,379.10	797,314.50		792,064.50	





Quadrennial Council Representatives

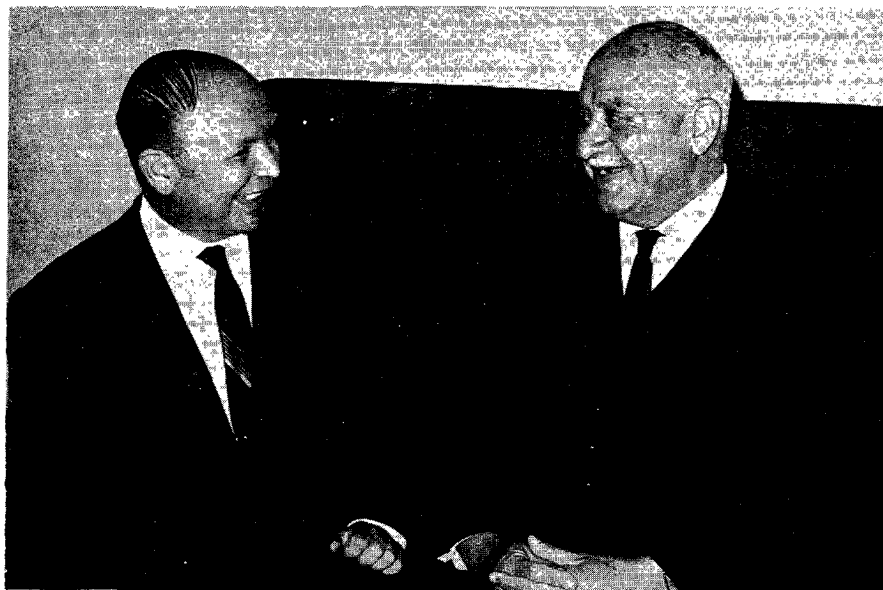
The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East

Broumanna, Lebanon, November 10-13, 1967

Leading Faces At the Quadrennial Council



From Cyprus, Secretary-Treasurer Moses Elmadjian and President Sherwood Jones.



Egypt Section's President Habib Ghali and Secretary Shafik Ghali. Treasurer Husni Kolta was unable to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT

of all Division organizations for the five year period. Here it can be seen that everything increased during the period except the percent of authorized operating capital on hand, which remained almost the same as at the beginning after various fluctuations during the years. We are happy for an increase of over \$600,000 in regular net worth, most of which represents increased buildings and equipment. We are gratified to observe that reserve funds are over \$400,000 more at the end of 1966 than they were in 1961. Although some organizations have had operating losses through the years, the totals for all organizations in

the Division have been consistent gains. This demonstrates sound budgeting on the part of most committees.

The health of the Church, not alone financially, but spiritually as well, is in direct proportion to its ability to support itself and contribute to the support of others. We feel that a promotion of this aspect of our work is needed, knowing that the turning of the attention of members and workers away from the transitory glow of receiving to the last-

ing, gratifying, and blessed joy of giving will develop a sense of security and stability in our work that will make it possible for the Church to buoyantly bridge and banish any barrier of economic or political crisis and make of itself a strength in Christ to carry forward nobly, without appreciative assistance from others, the work of God in this ancient but needy part of His vineyard.

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES—MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, TOTALS OF ALL ORGANIZATIONS

Years 1961-1966
Expressed in U.S. Dollars at Fixed Rates of Exchange

	<u>31/12/61</u>	<u>31/12/62</u>	<u>31/12/63</u>	<u>31/12/64</u>	<u>31/12/65</u>	<u>31/12/66</u>	Increase During Five Years
Cash and Bank	509,047.09	471,191.99	506,014.38	480,491.24	533,657.18	757,999.74	248,952.65
Accounts receivable	715,019.70	1,430,953.02	1,043,967.34	1,038,719.10	872,700.36	1,062,985.43	347,965.73
Inventories and Prepaid Exp.	110,765.22	130,984.58	144,506.51	183,402.38	233,378.29	250,201.31	139,436.09
Total Current Assets	1,334,832.01	2,033,129.59	1,694,488.23	1,702,612.72	1,639,735.83	2,071,186.48	736,354.47
Liabilities	472,637.85	938,558.55	654,135.55	666,080.93	571,764.46	736,682.22	264,044.37
Reserves	479,263.63	612,629.48	724,583.49	757,133.18	723,620.19	892,604.08	413,340.45
Operating Capital	382,930.53	481,941.56	315,769.19	279,398.61	344,351.18	441,900.18	58,969.65
Fixed Assets	428,563.41	432,875.91	631,134.27	746,823.58	877,365.21	974,807.79	546,244.38
Regular Net Worth	811,433.94	914,817.47	946,903.46	1,026,222.19	1,221,716.39	1,416,707.97	605,274.03
Local Operating Income	359,463.17	514,390.10	665,665.70	917,598.25	899,270.47	799,628.57	440,165.40
Operating Expenses	981,079.47	1,105,264.54	1,358,810.93	1,619,895.15	1,566,877.39	1,643,877.46	662,797.99
Operating Gain (Loss)	(621,616.30)	(590,874.44)	(693,145.23)	(702,296.90)	(667,606.92)	(844,248.89)	222,632.59
Appropriations Received	640,353.10	658,753.09	716,319.76	737,105.37	802,444.02	878,054.05	237,700.95
Net Gain (Loss)	18,736.80	67,878.65	23,174.53	34,808.47	134,837.10	33,805.16	15,068.36
Authorized Operating Capital	328,074.39	325,414.91	341,466.26	373,251.06	385,840.63	383,270.41	55,196.02
Amount Over (Short)	54,856.44	70,238.18	(25,697.07)	(93,852.45)	(41,489.45)	58,629.77	3,773.63
% of Auth. Op. Capital on Hand	116%	118%	92.5%	71.8%	89%	115%	(1%)



Iran's President Harold Gray and Secretary-Treasurer Vigain Marcarian.



Salim Majeed, president of the Iraq Section.

Lebanon Section President Chafic Srouf with his new secretary-treasurer, Minas Megurditchian.



Jordanian representatives: Bishara Taweel and Kamel Haddad with President Willard J. Clemons.

Benghazi Adventist Hospital's group included Drs. Mike Oliverio and Clifford Ludington (standing), and Chaplain Jerry Whitehouse and Business Manager Cleo Johnson.



Turkey's Yebraksie Gomig, Bible worker, and Manuk Benzatyan, president, visit with an old friend, Curtis Miller.



Break Through! & Breakthrough!

It hardly seems necessary to state editorially that the theme of this issue of The Middle East Messenger is the idea that burned itself into our very being during the recent Quadrennial Council.

Moreover, it hardly seems necessary to state editorially that the new year of 1968 must be the year when ideas and themes become realities.

It hardly seems necessary—but we're going to do it anyway.

The theme of this issue and the burning idea of the Quadrennial: *Break Through!* The new year of 1968 must be the year of *Breakthrough!*

The careful reader will notice immediately a grammatical inconsistency: *Break Through* is a verb; *Breakthrough* is a noun. Both forms were used during the Council. The grammatical inconsistency in November was probably not intended, but the dual interpretation is most meaningful. We intend the inconsistency here. Reason: *Break Through!* must come before *Breakthrough!*

The Seventh-day Adventist in the Middle East must break through to the gates of paradise in 1968—in prayer, in study, in stewardship, in personal witness. Notice, please, that we said *Adventist*—not Adventists. The emphasis is deliberately singular. And it hardly seems necessary to explain why. Obviously, if every single Seventh-day Adventist—wherever he or she is in the Middle East—breaks through to God, the Church collective in the Middle East breaks through too! Then what?

Breakthrough!

And we dare to say that it has already started. A new hospital in Benghazi, Libya. Hundreds attending the Division evangelistic team's meetings in Irbid and Al-Husn, Jordan. (In fact, Pastors Salim Japas and George Khoury were happily compelled to conduct double programs in order to handle the throngs. Initial results: five baptisms.)

In Lebanon, Evangelist Harley Bresee is proving that Muslim Arabs will study the Bible. He speaks to a hall filled with them week after week. He studies and prays with scores of them in their homes. He's so encouraged he already has visions of a new Adventist congregation comprised entirely of ex-Muslims!

In the field of mass communication, who ever thought Adventists in the Middle East would have an opportunity to offer free subscriptions to *Al-Raja*, *Les Signes des Temps*, or *Signs of the Times* on an Adventist-produced color telecast? Admittedly, Evangelists Dick Fenn and Armour Potter of Dar as-Salam International, the Ras Beirut-based religious information service of the Lebanon Section which sponsored The Cedarbells' TV program, haven't exactly been deluged with requests for magazine subscriptions (they've received two so far), but that's beside the point. The point is this: Adventists were on TV, Adventists offered something of a witness on TV, and there's no reason to believe that this can't and won't happen again!

Division President Webster's urgent challenge to new and original thinking should encourage many ministers, educators, and workers in all branches of service who have good ideas to test them, modify them, and then share them. Of this we are sure: God will bless the ideas He can use!

As 1967, a year of trial and turmoil for the Middle East in general, becomes 1968, Seventh-day Adventists in the Middle East are thinking big and planning big. With God's help, 1968 must be the year we Adventists *break through* to the *breakthrough!*

Ingathering Victories

We haven't heard from other fields yet but if their reports of the current Ingathering Campaign are as enthusiastic as the ones coming out of Middle East College and the Mouseitbeh Seventh-day Adventist School, we can look for a banner year.

According to *The Voice of MEC*, "December 5 was a thrilling day. . . . Over LL3,000 was collected." One group of college teachers and students including Dr. Siegfried J. Schwantes, Mrs. Carolyn Russell, Miss Maida Azadian, Miss Raja Luis, and Miss Najat Hannawi raised LL387.00 alone!

The Mouseitbeh School has raised over LL1,600. This is a fine record for a truly mission school: Mouseitbeh's enrollment is predominantly non-Adventist. To the victorious Ingatherers, our congratulations and our thanks!

focus

BY CHARLES MILLS

The most historophotogenic lands in the whole world are the lands of the Middle East. The picture possibilities here in the Middle East are unlimited, especially to the preacher or worker in the Church of God.

Church workers in other countries spend money to travel to the Middle East to visit and photograph places which are literally next door to us: Tyre, Sidon, the Cedars of Lebanon, Damascus, Babylon, Isfahan, Persep'o'is, Petra—and we could go on and on.

Here are a few tips to help you take pictures you'll be proud to show your friends and relatives—people who may never enjoy the opportunities you enjoy almost every day:

(1) The picture itself must be sharp, clear, taken with the right exposure. Don't guess! A good light meter is a good investment, particularly in desert areas where you can overexpose all too easily!

(2) What's your center of interest? A specific object should be the main force of your picture. All other aspects of the picture point to it.

(3) Action! Action! Action! Add dimension and human interest to your pictures by having your people doing something!

(4) Does the picture tell a story in and of itself? If not, look for a better angle. Dare to shoot from a different angle, a new height.

And by the way, you don't really need lots of expensive equipment to take really good pictures. A relatively simple—but good—and inexpensive camera in the hands of a careful photographer will produce fine pictures.

So in 1968 photograph scenes of spiritual interest for your own enjoyment and for the ultimate glory of God. Happy shooting to all!

The Middle East Messenger
September-October 1967
Volume XVI, No. 5

RICHARD LEE FENN Acting Editor
Published bi-monthly, The Middle East Messenger is the official journal of the

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
Middle East Division
College Park, Beirut, Lebanon
Post Office Box 2020
Phone: 262258

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*On leave

TRANSITION

By BERTA JACOBS

CVPRUS EVACUATION Leaders of the Cyprus Section became evacuees to Beirut during the November crisis on the island—and thus enjoyed the same kind of hospitality they themselves dispensed when Middle East mainland workers were based in Cyprus for several weeks last summer. Pastor and Mrs. *Sherwood Jones* and their children, the *Dean O. McDaniel* family, and the *Moses Elmadjian* family arrived Friday, November 24, and returned to Nicosia Monday, December 11.

ARRIVALS Benghazi Hospital's Chaplain and Mrs. *Jerald W. Whitehouse* are the proud parents of a daughter, *Jeralyn Ellice*, born December 8. Little Miss Whitehouse weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds, 7 ounces! . . . Earlier, on November 25, the hospital staff welcomed still another Oliverio: *Eliseo G., Jr.*, 7-pound, 5-ounce son of Mr. and Mrs. *Eliseo Oliverio*.

VISITORS Accomplished pianist and vocalist *Ingrid Schwantes Row* spent the Christmas holidays on the campus of Middle East College with her parents Dr. and Mrs. *Siegfried J. Schwantes*. She's from Andrews University . . . Arriving from Newbold College in England by way of Warsaw, *Malcolm Russell* visited Beirut for the "last time, probably." Pastor and Mrs. *James S. Russell* of The College Park Church were happy to help their red-bearded scholar son locate lost kilos . . . Benghazi Hospital Engineer *Russell Nolin* and wife visited Beirut in November. Their hosts: Middle East Collge Engineer *Lloyd Nolin* and wife.

APPOINTMENTS New names in the Middle East Division masthead (see opposite page) include Assistant Auditor *George Yared*, formerly secretary-treasurer of the Lebanon Section, and Evangelist *George Khoury*, most recently the pastor of the Mouseitbeh Seventh-day Adventist Church . . . New secretary-treasurer of the Lebanon Section: *Minas Megurditchian* . . . Now pastoring the Mouseitbeh Church: Dar as-Salam Associate *Armour Potter*.

DEPARTURES Nurse *Doroithy Walter* of Benghazi Hospital, on furlough to the States, December 18 . . . *Philip Samaan* (December 22) and *Ellen Fabim Micheal* (December 29), both former MEC students, to the U.S. to continue their education . . . Expected to leave very soon: Benghazi's dentist, Dr. *A. A. Ewert* and family, for study of ortho-

ORDINATION



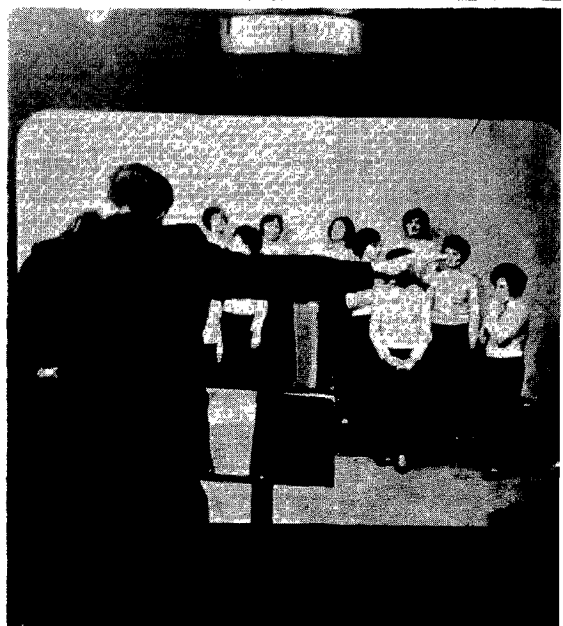
There's little doubt that the addition of another ordained minister will help the church break through in Syria. The new minister is Gabriel Katrib (seen here with his wife)—ordained in a solemn service conducted at The Adventist Center, Beirut, Sabbath, December 23. Among those officiating were Syria Section President Maurice Katrib and the Division officers.

Breakthrough in Broadcasting



Broadcasting breakthroughs in December: (1) The Beirut Overseas School Choir on CLT in a pre-Christmas telecast; (2) The Cedarbells on CLT with a 30-minute Christmas Eve telecast in color; free subscriptions to *Al-Raja* offered. (See accompanying photos.) (3) The Cedarbells also prepared a 30-minute concert for Radio Liban. (4) Evangelist Salim Japas and MEC's Dr. Siegfried J. Schwantes began broadcasts to Latin America over Radio Liban.

dontics in the States. *Kamal Issa*, MEC alumnus and teacher at Mouseitbeh School, to Canada; and *Carlos Japas*, MEC student, who goes to Argentina at the call of his country.



A Resolution of Thanksgiving

Expressed as a Prayer

To the one true God, Creator of the Universe and King of Kings, Loving Father and Redeemer of the human race, we the representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East here convened in solemn council, direct this resolution and prayer of thanksgiving:

Great and manifold have been the blessings of heaven upon Thy people, O God!

For the shed blood of Thy Son and for His magnificent grace which are efficacious for our full salvation from sin, *we thank Thee!*

For the fire of Thy Holy Spirit sent to warm our cold hearts, to illumine our dark minds, to guide our wayward feet, and to inspire our sinsick souls, *we thank Thee!*

For the unseen but not unknown fellowship of angelic beings from high, commissioned to shield Thy sheep from the dread dangers of a war-racked world, *we thank Thee!*

For the glorious gospel of God's love given to Thy Church to give to mankind—that mankind might live to Thee in harmony, *we thank Thee!*

For seed sown, for sins forgiven, for victories won, for souls saved, for the beginning of the harvest now and the promise of a greater harvest to come, *we thank Thee!*

Yeah, O God, we thank Thee for these blessings—and a host of blessings besides. Our hearts and hands are full of the evidences of Thy boundless love! How then shall we express our gratitude to Thee? Verily, how *can* we express our gratitude to Thee?

What we do offer in deep humility is embarrassingly slender, woefully weak and ever-prone to heed the siren-song of the enemy camp: for we can offer to Thee, our Father-God, nothing save our very selves. We dare to do this only because Thou hast promised to adopt us as Thine own children, to guide us as we grow in Thy grace, to strengthen us as we feed upon Thy Word, and then to send us forth in Thy power to represent Thee to these lands of the Middle East—these lands parched and thirsting for the living water of life.

And so we pray first for ourselves. That we may fitly bear the water of life, mold these fragile human vessels who bow reverently in Thy majestic presence. Let there be no cracks of character, no poverty of personality.

Now pray we with one heart and mind and voice for the Middle East—its nations, its cities, and its villages; for its Muslim majority and its Christian minority—that all who worship Thee today in the dimness of meaningless tradition may worship Thee tomorrow in the brightness of full understanding of Thy total truth.

To break through: this is our one goal. This one thing we will do. But the victory of Thy Church is dependent upon our breaking through to Thee, as Thou hast broken through to us. For *Thy* breakthrough, *we thank Thee!* And with complete confidence in Christ, we now leave this Quadrennial Council of 1967 to break through for Thee. Go with us, we pray, and bless us with Thy love unlimited; with the great grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; and with the infinite inspiration of the Holy Spirit—now and unto the close of time! *Amen.*





DONALD W. HUNTER
Associate Secretary
General Conference
of
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