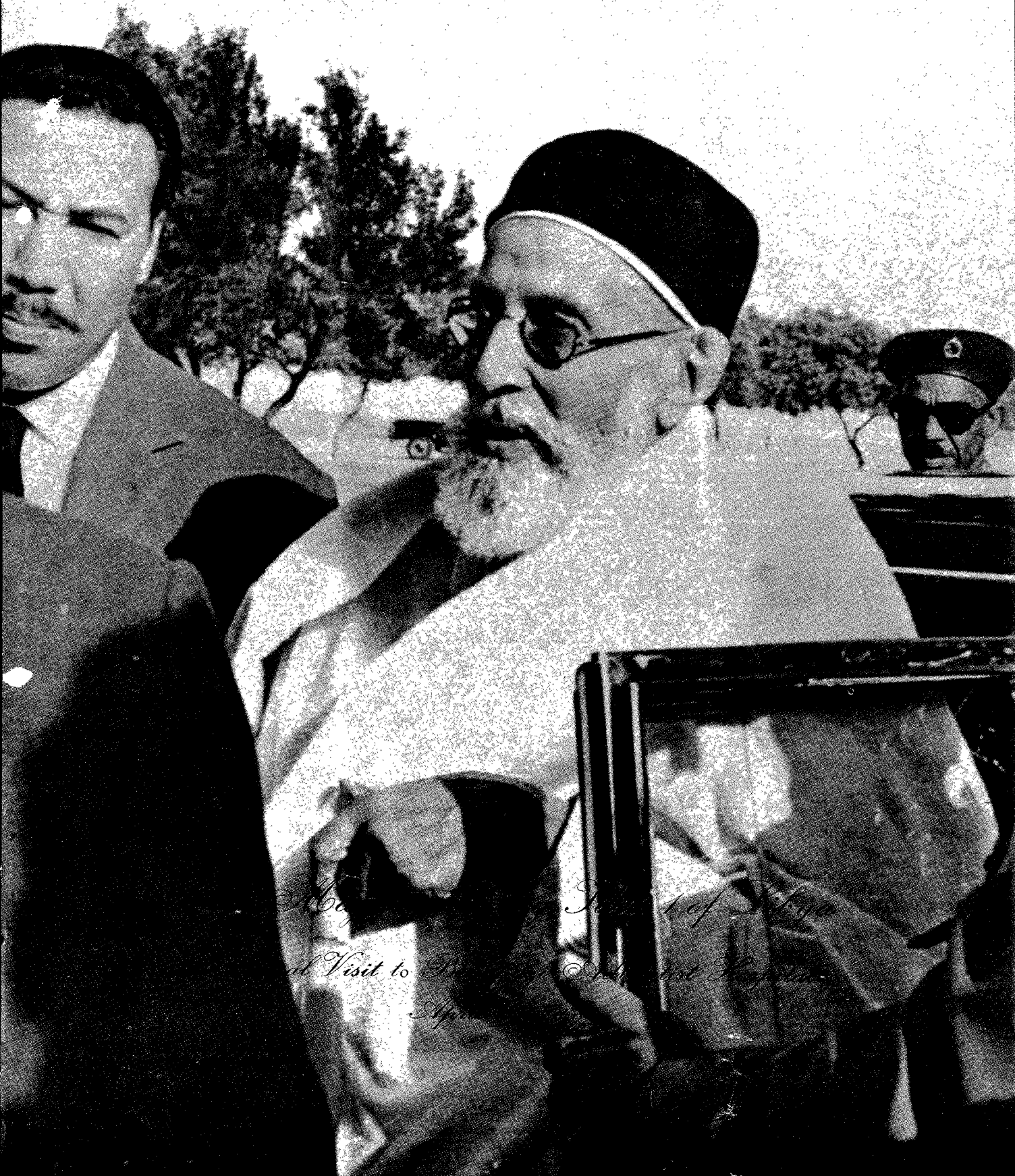


# Middle East Messenger

June 1968  
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*His Highness the Emir of Qatar  
Visit to Washington, D.C.  
April 1968*



# TALKING TOGETHER

Perhaps one of the most important recent developments in Adventist lay evangelism around the world is the gift Bible plan. In this plan the Seventh-day Adventist layman gives a gift copy of the Bible to a friend or a neighbor, or to anyone willing to accept such a gift as he proceeds from door to door seeking willing readers. With the Bible he leaves a study guide with an easy-to-answer test paper. Each succeeding week the layman collects the answered test paper and leaves a new study guide dealing with a different Bible doctrine and the corresponding test paper. This plan has proven successful in almost every land on earth and seemingly in every environment. It is effective for use among old acquaintances or total strangers. It seems to bring results in cities, villages, or in rural areas. In sections of the Middle East where this plan has been used it has been warmly received.

"Why," asks someone, "has this plan proven so successful?" I would suggest two reasons why God is so abundantly blessing this endeavor.

First, we are inviting our friends to hold in their hand and study the wonderful Word of God. Accustomed as we are to have in our possession this Book of Books and having become so familiar with its teachings, we perhaps fail to realize the impact that the Bible makes upon those who have never before had a Bible of their own. Some have never even had the privilege of holding this Treasure in their hands, much less reading or studying its words.

When the reader comes to realize that his Creator speaks through the pages of the Bible, and that Truth in its fullness shines into his life through its words, he becomes awed, then humbled, and then he is led to praise and extol the Almighty.

Second and of almost equal importance is the personal contact that is established as the weekly study guides are delivered. The living messenger of Truth provides the human personification of the Divine message, for the Christian graces shine forth from his life during each contact. This dual revelation of truth, through the message and through the messenger, provides an environment wherein the Holy Spirit gains access to the heart, transforms the life, and converts the soul.

Bible truth of itself may appear abstract to the chance-hearers, but when those truths have penetrated a heart and molded a life to the extent that that life shines forth for God in a dark and evil world, enobled and enlightened, then Truth becomes real, alive, and attractive.

We would urge the promotion of the gift Bible plan in all sections and in all churches that through this marvelous means we might move forward to *break through* the barriers built up against righteousness.



# MED ExCom Holds Midyear Session

The 1968 midyear session of the Middle East Division Executive Committee was held in Beirut May 15-17.

Present at the opening session were: President Frederick C. Webster, chairman; Secretary Ray L. Jacobs, Treasurer Robert C. Mills, Middle East Press Manager Robert E. Anderson, Turkey Section President Manuk Benzatyan, Jordan Section President Willard J. Clemons, Egypt Section President Habib Ghali, Iran Section President Harold L. Gray, Cyprus Section President J. Sherwood Jones, Syria Section President Maurice Katrib, and Evangelist George Khoury.

Also, Medical Secretary Herschel C. Lamp, Benghazi Adventist Hospital Medical Director D. Clifford Ludington, Iraq Section President Salim Majeed, Ministerial Association, Sabbath School, and Radio-TV Secretary L. Curtis Miller, Lay Activities Secretary Manoug Nazirian, Lebanon Section President Chafic Srouf, Middle East College President Kenneth L. Vine, Cashier and Assistant Auditor Richard W. Wilmot, and Assistant Auditor George Yared.

Jordan Section Pastor Mousa Azar and Syria Section Pastor Ziki Hannawi were also invited to join the committee.

The General Conference representative

at the committee meeting was Lay Activities Secretary J. Ernest Edwards, then winding up a lengthy itinerary through Middle East Division territory. He had conducted several laymen's workshops in various sections as well as the Spring Quarter Religious Emphasis Week at Middle East College.

Pastor Edwards presented the keynote sermon at the first committee session. He told of a man revived from a heart attack long enough to hear a friend shout, "Man, you are dying and you are not ready!" The dying man feebly responded with the prayer, "Jesus, save me!"

The GC official affirmed Christ's saving power, but suggested that each one should heed St. Paul's counsel to examine himself (*II Corinthians 13:5*) to be certain that "his religious experience is the genuine article and not simply a veneer."

Pastor Edwards said, "Although no IQ test has been devised to ascertain the degree of spiritual maturity attained by the Christian, the following seven points may well be considered:

"(1) Do I really enjoy praying and studying the Bible? (2) Do I choose to do the right thing or the expedient thing? (3) Am I less critical of others? (4) What is the radius of my interest? (5) Do I really forgive? (6) Do I trust in God or do I worry? (7) Who is first in my thoughts and in my service?"

President Webster's initial statement included a salute to the increasing interest and activity in public evangelism throughout the Division. He noted that Egypt Section President Habib Ghali had held three efforts simultaneously in the Assiut area resulting in 40 baptisms as of May 15. Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury have held successful efforts in Egypt and Jordan. In Syria, Section President Maurice Katrib baptized eight as the result of an effort in Damascus. The president also noted campaigns conducted by Pastor Mousa Azar in Jordan and Pastor Hilal Dose in Iraq.

Pastor Webster announced forthcoming visits by several church officials:

- \* General Conference Associate Publishing Secretary and Mrs. Herbert White, to Beirut and Tehran, June 6-12.
- \* Newly-elected GC Vice President and Mrs. Reinhold R. Bietz, to Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and Cyprus, beginning June 13.

(See *DIVISION NEWS*, p. 14)

## Jordan Church Has Business Meet

BY ROBERT C. MILLS

The Jordan Section Biennial Session was held in the recreation hall of the Amman Girls' School on Friday, April 26.

Twenty-eight delegates and workers from the three organized churches and the companies of the section met to elect departmental secretaries and an executive committee of the section for the next two years and to receive reports of the past two years.

Elder Willard J. Clemons, the Division-appointed president and secretary-treasurer, was asked to assume the responsibility for the Sabbath school, education and temperance departments.

Mousa Azar was placed in charge of the lay activities, public relations, and radio-TV departments as well as the work of the orphanage. Mr. Najeeb Ayoub was re-appointed accountant for the section and asked to supervise the work of the YPMV department.

On Sunday the new executive committee met and laid broad plans for conducting and expanding the work in the Jordan Section. Members of a building committee for the orphanage inspected the work being done on the site of the developing institution.

Attending the meetings from the Division were Pastors Ray L. Jacobs, and Robert C. Mills and Mr. George Yared, the secretary, treasurer, and assistant auditor, respectively, and also Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury who were then holding well-attended meetings in Zarqa.

In spite of political difficulties, the work of the Lord is onward in Jordan. Prospects for baptisms are good. Those attending the session as well as the members of the executive committee solicit the interest of God's people everywhere in their behalf.



# Libya's MH Defends Hospital

On Monday morning, April 1, the Libyan Minister of Health, His Excellency Omar Giauda, sent word that he wanted to see the administrators of the Benghazi Adventist Hospital and make an official visit to the institution on Tuesday at 9 in the morning. Preparations were made to meet the MH in the office of Dr. D. Clifford Ludington, medical director.

When His Excellency arrived a few minutes after 9, Tuesday, April 2, Cleo Johnson and Rafic Issa discovered that the MH was accompanied by several other men: H. E. Essayed Bughrara, the Ministry of Health's under secretary for the Eastern Districts, representatives of the Libyan News Agency and Al Hakika (a Benghazi newspaper), and photographers.

The greetings were very cordial. Smiles and handshakes were extended to all by the three representatives of the hospital. When the Minister of Health was seated, the others gathered in a conversational circle about him. Many thoughts were running through the minds of the hospital representatives as relative silence reigned for a few seconds. Had something been done that was going to be brought up forcefully in the form of an ultimatum? Had one of the workers offended some government official with a hasty word under great pressures of the work? Or had the MH come because of a recent unfavorable newspaper article. His Excellency turned to Dr. Ludington and asked:

MH: What are some of the problems you are having at the present time?

L: We have many problems, but probably our greatest problem is the lack of adequate professional help. We need doctors, nurses, technicians, and others to help carry the load of the work.

MH: How are you trying to solve this problem? Have you applied to your headquarters for help?

L: Yes, we have. They are well aware of our needs.

MH: How long ago did you start in getting these workers?

L: Six months to a year ago. Some of these will be ready to come as soon as we can get the work permits for them from the Libyan Government. A few are still being held up by our headquarters to obtain passports, physical examinations, and other necessary information from the prospective worker. Also it is difficult to find workers because most of our personnel are working at salaries which are much less

than they would be receiving in their homelands.

MH: Is there any way in which I can help you to get these people to come?

L: There is usually considerable time required to obtain work permits for our workers. Is it possible that you could permit us to bring in our workers on a business visa and then start on the work visa when they arrive?

*This specific question went unanswered. Obviously any answer would involve the Libyan Government's labor and immigration departments. Moreover, the MH would probably not want to commit himself in front of the reporters. But he did say this much:*



*BAH's close friend and advisor, Prince Abdullab Abed Senoussi, presents a large contribution to Hospital Medical Director Clifford Ludington.*

MH: For any professional personnel I will personally see to it that there will be immediate action to get their work permits. What personnel do you have scheduled to come?

L: We have scheduled to come four physicians, about 10 to 12 nurses, two more technicians, an accountant, a medical records librarian, a pharmacist, and other ancillary help. Our new dietitian will be arriving within a few days.

MH: Dr. Ludington, what workers do you have at the present time?

L: We have three physicians, one dentist, 14 nurses, three technicians, one physical therapist, one anesthetist, one

medical records librarian, and two health educators, besides our business manager and other office and ancillary help. In all we have 85 employees of which 50 are Libyan workers.

REPORTER: May I ask a question?

MH: No, you wait until I finish.

REPORTER (whispering loudly to Dr. Ludington): We have several questions we would like to ask you when the Minister of Health leaves.

MH: What are some more problems of the hospital?

L: We are continuing to have a problem with the income tax people. They recently deducted about Lib£1,500 from our bank account and they continue to send us billings for profits from operation when we are not making a profit.

MH: Yes, I know from Libyan Government studies that one can expect a loss of about Lib£1,000 yearly for every bed which you have in the hospital. The administration of the Italian Hospital was planning to close it until the government stepped in and subsidized the hospital to keep it operating. You are certainly doing a fine job to keep your hospital operating without asking for additional help. Send me another letter concerning the income tax problems and I will pass it on to the proper authorities for added study. What other problems are you having?

L: Some of our equipment was delayed due to a strike and may have been sent back to Tripoli because of lack of dock facilities here in Benghazi. Also, we have had maintenance problems. The director of our maintenance department has been very busy making repairs and installations. The electrical voltage was increased and the phase was reversed soon after we opened. This burned out many lights and some motors and he has many such repairs to make. Would you like to hear some more about our operational problems?

MH: No, I'm just interested in the major problems of patient care and personnel.

*The Minister of Health had in his hand a copy of Al Hakika. Was this the issue containing an article by the editor in which he complained of numerous things about the hospital? Habib Banna had noted the article and translated it into English, giving copies of his translation to Mr. Johnson and Dr. Ludington. Hospital officials suspected that this was to be the main topic of discussion when they saw the reporters with the Minister of Health.*

MH: The main reason that I am here today is this article in the local paper, Al Hakika. As you know, the press is allowed to write whatever they want to say.

*"And then some!" hospital representatives were thinking.*

MH: We feel that they can help to provide eyes for the government. We welcome constructive criticism, so we try to give notice to what they say. How many beds do you have in your hospital?

L: We have 40 beds at present; we will have 65 beds when our new equipment arrives.

MH: How many patients do you have in the hospital at the present time?

L: We have 38 patients right now, Your Excellency.

REPORTER: May I ask a question now?

MH: You wait until I'm finished. How many of the 38 patients are Libyans?

L: There are 36 Libyans. The other two are an Englishman and an Egyptian. *Somehow Dr. Ludington overlooked a man from Poland and one from Lebanon.*

MH (to reporter): See that? And you print in your paper that they are here treating foreigners.

REPORTER: How do you get the money to operate this hospital if you are losing money as you state?

L: Our headquarters in Beirut sends us about Lib£3,000 each month for operating expenses.

REPORTER: Where does your headquarters in Beirut get the money to finance your operation?

L: From our church members around the world.

REPORTER: I mean how do they collect it?

L: In giving of alms for welfare work around the world.

MH (to reporter): And His Majesty our King contributed Lib£10,000 as a personal gift to the Adventist Hospital.

L: Yes, and many other Libyans have contributed. Libyans have contributed about Lib£26,000 in all.

REPORTER (to Rafic Issa): Mr. Issa, why do you observe Saturday as the Sabbath?

ISSA: Because it is one of the commandments of God. The One who said, "Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not commit adultery, and love thy neighbor as thyself," also said, "Remember the Sabbath to

keep it holy, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

MH (to reporter): That's enough of that. They can worship God as they wish. What they believe is none of your business. You have no right to say anything against their faith. Let's have no more talk about their religion.

L: Your Excellency, I do not know whether the article you hold in your hand was written by one of two brothers that I saw as patients about a week ago, but I would like to relate the experience.

MH and REPORTER: Yes, it is the article written by the editor of Al Hakika.

tion while I excused myself for five minutes, telling them that I would be back by the time the injection had been given, and then I would see the second brother. While we were both gone, the second brother became very nervous and upset that I would seemingly walk out and leave him alone. He stormed out of the room. Habib Bana and the English-speaking brother could not persuade him to return. The editor left the hospital swearing that he would write the article about the hospital. His brother returned to my office to apologize for his actions.

MH: That is certainly understandable to excuse yourself to see Dr. Moawad. No doubt most of your problems are in the outpatient department. I see that in this article in the newspaper you take foreigners first and that Libyans



*Libya's beloved "Black Prince," Abdullah Abed Senoussi, with BAH friends: Rafic Issa, Dr. Ludington Cleo Johnson, Emilia Tabo, and Dr. Mike Oliverio.*

L: I was notified that these two gentlemen wished to see me as patients. I took their charts and conducted them into the examining room. One spoke English well, but his brother, the editor I was told, did not speak English. Therefore, I examined the brother who spoke English first. While I was examining him, one of the nurses came to tell me that Dr. Moawad was in my office to see me for just a minute. We had four workers for whom we wanted Dr. Moawad to sign permits to come to Libya, so I was anxious to see him. However, I finished examining the first brother, then sent him to get an injec-

tion. What do you have to say about that?

L: As patients come in they are registered in turn and given a number in the order that they register. They are then called in their turn. Emergencies are taken care of right away.

REPORTER: May I ask a question?

MH: If it is a logical one.

REPORTER (from LNA): Dr. Ludington, when you were in our office just prior to the opening of the new hospital, you stated that you planned to have a charity clinic three times each week. Have you fulfilled this promise?

L: No. The bus company had promised to put a bus on every fifteen minutes for us and this has failed to come about. Also, shortage of staff has kept us from operating the second clinic. However, we continue to see charity cases through the regular clinic.

REPORTER: Probably there are no charity patients since they must pay before receiving any service.

L: We never ask a patient for money until after they have seen the physician and received their medicine. We make no discrimination on this point. We treat all the people alike.

REPORTER: This is what they say they do, but they are asking for money before the patient gets any treatment or sees the physician.

MH: Listen to me! My eyes are open. I said I know it to be a fact that they register the patient and he sees the doctor first. I am the Minister of Health. Are you trying to question my statement?

L: Laboratory and X ray are the only departments where we usually ask the patient to pay something before the service is given. If he cannot pay, he is referred back to the physician who makes the final decision on the importance of the test. If it is needed, then it is done without charge.

MH: I hear you ask patients to pay a deposit before they are admitted to the hospital.

L: Yes, we do ask the patients to pay if they are able. But if they do not have the money and they need to be in the hospital, we go ahead and admit them, treat them, and let them go home without any charge.

MH: I remember the case of a young man who came to you with osteomyelitis of the femur. His name was Ayad. You treated him at your hospital for about six to eight months. Then we came by to see him at your old hospital and sent him abroad for treatment. You did not charge or even ask this young man for any money. There have been many other good things that the Adventist Hospital has done for the Libyan people.

REPORTER: Maybe the case of Ayad is one case in a thousand that Your Excellency has seen.

MH: No, I know for sure. Many times I have visited with patients in the Adventist Hospital, and a number of them have told me that they were not paying for their treatment.

REPORTER: This cannot be so.

MH: Don't you open your mouth again. Don't you argue with me. What

I have seen, I have seen.

L: There are two points that I would like to clarify concerning this article in the newspaper, Your Excellency.

MH: Continue on.

L: It states that we are spies. This has a political connotation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Why should we want to be spies? We are many nationalities. We stay as far out of politics as we can. We do not ask the government for money, nor would we want to accept money from the government.

Another point is that we are undermining the Moslem religion by teaching our patients things that are contrary to beliefs. Mr. Whitehouse, please bring in Sam.

*Health Educator Jerald Whitehouse entered with the hospital's silent partner in the battle against smoking.*

Your Excellency, may I introduce you to Mr. Whitehouse and Smoking Sam. You will notice the collection of tars and nicotine in the bottles which represent the lungs. In teaching people the evils of smoking and other harmful practices, are we undermining the beliefs of the Moslems?

REPORTER: Proably they are trying to press their religion through their books. Let's see their bookstore.

MH: Listen! I'm not here to examine their bookstore. If you want to see their books, you can come later. Let them alone. Residents in Libya are allowed to worship God as they please. We can control only the things of earth. That is enough questioning. Now let's go and see some of the patients.

*The group followed the Minister of Health out of the library and down the hall to see some of the patients. He turned to the right, going into each room, talking with and questioning each patient in Rooms 3, 2, and finally 1. He received favorable comments from them all. The last patient in this area was Mukhtar, a traffic policeman who has a very severe fracture of the lower right leg and now has osteomyelitis. His case was discussed from a medical viewpoint and Dr. Ludington recommended that he be sent abroad for treatment unless the British orthopedist comes soon. In the hearing of the MH, Mukhtar requested financial help for his medical bills.*

MH: I will see that all of your bills are paid up to date, but from today on you are on your own if you stay here, but you may transfer to the Government Hospital tomorrow if you wish.

*Mukhtar stated that he would rather remain at the Adventist Hospital. Going out of the room, Dr. Ludington addressed the Minister of Health.*

## Aussie Now Leads ITA



*Pastor Ernest H. J. Steed, an Australian church public relations expert, has been named by the General Conference to be executive secretary of the International Temperance Association and its affiliated organizations.*

L: Your Excellency, we did not expect to get paid for Mukhtar's treatment. This is his second admission to the hospital, and we admitted him as a charity patient.

MH (to reporters): Did you hear that? Did you hear that? They admitted him, not expecting to receive any money for the treatment given. What have you got to say about that?

*The Minister of Health visited Taber Senoussi and then paid his respects to the King's sisters before passing the room where the son of the former Minister of Defense was sick. He greeted Senator Lenghi's daughter in the hallway. On the way out of the hospital, His Excellency stated:*

MH: I have seen what I wanted to see. I am well pleased with your hospital and the care given the patients. Keep up the good work. Good-bye.

*With this, he entered his Mercedes and drove off to another hospital, leaving a chagrined and perplexed group of news reporters standing by their car, lighting up their cigarettes.*

*Before leaving, Minister of Health Giauda had observed that it was good the article appeared just at the time he was in Benghazi to inspect the city's hospitals. The article had brought him to the Adventist Hospital and he had cleared his own mind of any doubts about the sincerity of the Seventh-day Adventists who were trying to help the country of Libya. He could now report to the King when His Majesty arrived the next day.*

BY D. CLIFFORD LUDINGTON, M.D.



**Wednesday, April 3, 1968:**

## THE DAY THE KING CAME

"What? The King visit the hospital? Ha! Why, he won't even slow down when he passes through Benghazi!"

Such remarks might one expect to hear if he would ask the question. But we are in the Lord's work, and His ways are not ours, nor His plans what we would expect, "O ye of little faith!"

It is customary for the two sisters of King Idris I to come into the hospital once or twice each year for physical checkups. Since they had just been in the hospital for almost a month in late November and early December of 1967, it was not anticipated that they should come in for quite some time. However, King Idris had been in Tripoli for several months following Ramadan. Now he was to make a grand appearance and stay overnight in Benghazi—something that he had not done for many years. Fifteen years ago, the King's best friend and closest personal advisor had been murdered in Benghazi. He had not stayed overnight here since that time.

When Dr. Catalifos, their personal physician, brought the King's two sisters to the hospital and stated that he would like for them to have a good examination before the King came, I thought, "What a golden opportunity for us to meet the King and have him see our hospital!" Had he not just recently given us Lib£10,000 (equivalent to U. S. \$28,000) on the occasion of the opening of the hospital? Would he not surely stop to see his two sisters here in Benghazi? Would he not like to visit his nephew Essayed Taher Abed Senoussi, who had recently undergone a nephroretectomy and was still in the hospital? Certainly we had God working on our side ahead of time, and we could well use the influence of the King's visit and of his having seen and visited our Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

We checked with the Royal Dewan where plans and contacts with the King are made; with our good friend General Abbar who is chief of the Cyrenaica Defense Forces and who would be personally responsible for the safety of the King; with Prince Abdullah Abed Sesoussi, one of the most prominent men

in Libya and our close friend and advisor; and with others of influence. They all agreed that the King would be happy to visit with his sisters and see our hospital.

The city of Benghazi had made elaborate plans for welcoming His Majesty King Idris I. A horse show was to be held in his honor and also a great feast. Lights, flags, and triumphal arches and other decorations had been prepared and erected all along the royal way from the entrance to the city to a point five kilometers out. Even rough streets were quickly resurfaced with the best of modern equipment so that the royal Mercedes limousine might drive swiftly and smoothly over the road. Of course we had several flags, banners, and lights on the hospital since he was to pass right in front of the building.

The day of the King's visit to Benghazi came, Wednesday, April 3, 1968. A soft, hot breeze blew in from the desert—and with it dust. All morning we cleaned. And then we waited.

About 2:30 in the afternoon I took my family out to see the horse show. Miss Evangeline Voth and Miss Ruth

Tobiassen went along with us. Approaching, we found to our dismay that the show was over and nearly everyone had already left.

Turning into the area where the King was to be housed for most of the day, I saw some of the Cyrenaica Defense Force officers. I went over to them to inquire for General Abbar, thinking that if I could get near him I might get a glimpse of the King. Also, I had been told by the General that he would give me at least a two-hour notice before the King would be coming to visit his sisters at the hospital. The officers directed us to the headquarters building and we parked right in front. I went into the General's office. Here I was informed that he had just left with the King to go to the guest beach cottage prepared for his visit. The officer who seemed to be in charge took me outside and assigned two CYDEF soldiers to go ahead of us in a Land Rover to lead us to the General.

We approached the beach villa, near Juliana Point on the edge of Benghazi, driving right past armed guards and stopping just in front of the cottage. The guide jumped out and disappeared



through a guard tent just to the side of the cottage.

After a minute or so I felt that I should also go to the tent in case any questions needed answering. As I entered the tent I was somewhat embarrassed to find myself in the presence of the director of the Royal Dewan who had said that he would set up the appointment for us to see the King and would arrange his visit to the hospital. However, he and the other officers there

Mercedes approaching with police and soldier escort. But instead of coming to the main entrance as we had hoped, they drove directly to the inpatient entrance at the back.

Rushing through the corridors to the inpatient section of the hospital, we had the thrill of a lifetime as we greeted His Majesty Idris I, King of Libya, one of the wealthiest, kindest, most humble and thoughtful men on earth. As Mr. Johnson, Mr. Issa, and I greeted him



*His Majesty King Idris I of Libya acknowledges the cheers of BAH employees. Dr. Clifford Ludington and Business Staffers Cleo Johnson and Rafic Issa escort the King.*

were very cordial. I had time only to greet them briefly when the guide returned with the message that His Majesty would be at the hospital in just twenty minutes. The guide wanted to know how many police were on duty at the hospital. "One, possibly two at the most," I answered. He told me to go to the hospital and get things ready. He would get more police.

Fairly flying back to the hospital (our dusty old Volkswagen hitting on three cylinders!), we spread word around to all the workers possible that the King was coming in a few minutes. It did not take long for all to be there in uniform, the officially-appointed photographers in place, and the greeting committee at the main entrance of the hospital.

Soon we recognized the long black

with a handshake and then bent forward to kiss his hand, I realized how far Seventh-day Adventist work had gone in registering an influence on the Islam of Libya.

As the King entered the building, patients and friends of patients tried eagerly to press close to him, to kiss his hand, or just touch the hem of his garment. The police formed a tight ring about him as we moved down the hallway to the room where his sisters were awaiting him. He raised his hands for quietness so as not to disturb those who were sick. One of our Libyan workers was thrilled even to tears as the king turned to him and shook his hand gently when he had been turned back by the ring of police.

With the King, we entered the room of his sisters for a brief moment, then

left to allow him and his sisters to visit for about ten minutes. During this period, Rafic Issa and I had opportunity to talk to the gentleman who seems to be closest to the King as personal advisor and bodyguard. He asked many questions, and we took the opportunity to discuss with him our income tax problem.

The tour then continued to the room of His Majesty's nephew, Essayed Taher Abed Senoussi. Then, to our surprise, we were permitted to take the King to our library where he visited with the administration and some of the workers of the hospital. He thanked us for operating such a clean and modern hospital. When we thanked him for his gift of Lib£10,000, he replied, "Do not thank me for doing my duty; it is my duty to do what I can to help with this good work for my people."

I had the privilege of presenting him with a souvenir album of the opening of the hospital. He opened it and slowly went over each page, taking his time, even though his personal advisor was trying to hurry him along. After this,







presence of a great man, a king who loves his people and who in turn is loved by them.

Everyone was awed by the visit. We sent for all of our workers to go to the cafeteria right away where we had a brief celebration. Through tears of happiness and gratitude we thanked God for the wonderful opportunity of standing before the King of Libya.

You may well ask, "What was the value of the visit by King Idris to the Adventist Hospital of Benghazi, Libya?"

This was the only hospital or medical institution that the King visited on his tour of Libya. He could see firsthand what we are doing for the people of Libya. He could inspect the lovely

new building. When problems arise in which we might petition help from him, he will remember his visit and what he has seen. (He stated after leaving the library that we had the Number 1 hospital in Libya.) His presence having graced our halls will break down much prejudice in the minds of some who would otherwise try to bring us into disrepute. Their stories will be of no avail now. It brought a new high to our morale. Our Libyan workers are now very proud to work for our institution.

As we think back on the experience of the day the King came, we look forward with ever greater anticipation to the day when the Heavenly King shall

we offered him a drink of fruit juice, but he declined, saying that he never ate or drank anything between meals, save water. On the way out to the car, he greeted several hospital workers. As the crowd in the hallways again cheered his appearance, the King raised his hands for silence. When all was quiet, he said softly, "Please do not make any noise; this is a hospital, and you might disturb someone who is sick."

Outside, several hundred people had gathered to see their beloved king. As he took his place in the back seat of the limousine, he gave us a very kind and appreciative smile. Yes, there was no doubting it: We had been in the

*King Idris and his personal advisor and bodyguard look at a souvenir album of the hospital opening presented by Mr. Issa and Dr. Ludington.*



*Mr. Rafic Issa and Dr. Clifford Ludington welcome King Idris to the library on the occasion of the royal visit to Benghazi Adventist Hospital.*

come. I am wondering: Are we making as great a preparation for His coming as we did for the King of Libya? Are we putting on the robe of Christ's righteousness so that our own personal appearance will be ready for that day? Are we as willing to spend those extra hours in preparation of our homes and families as we did for the King of Libya? Are we just as anxious to tell others of what the living presence of King Jesus will do as we are to relate this experience? Are we going to shed tears of joy and thanksgiving when we see Him coming in the clouds of glory?

What a grand and glorious day of rejoicing that will be: The day King Jesus comes to reign!





## *God didn't forget them...*

Just a year ago this month the Middle East exploded into what history already calls the Six-Day War. Overseas church workers evacuated their homes on 30-minutes' notice. A few weeks later they returned safe and sound.

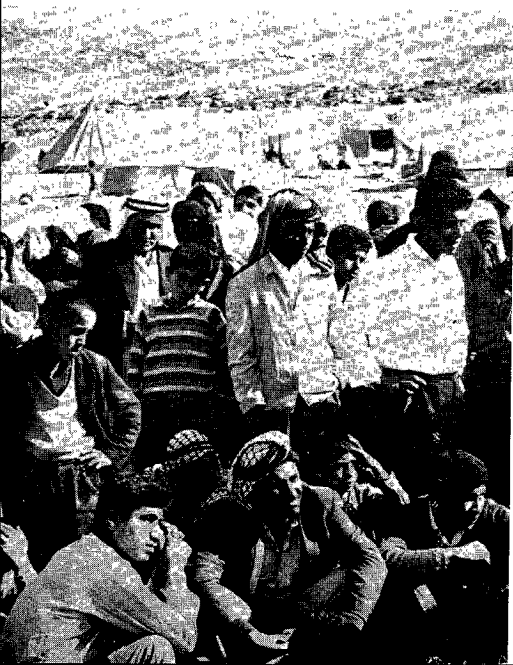
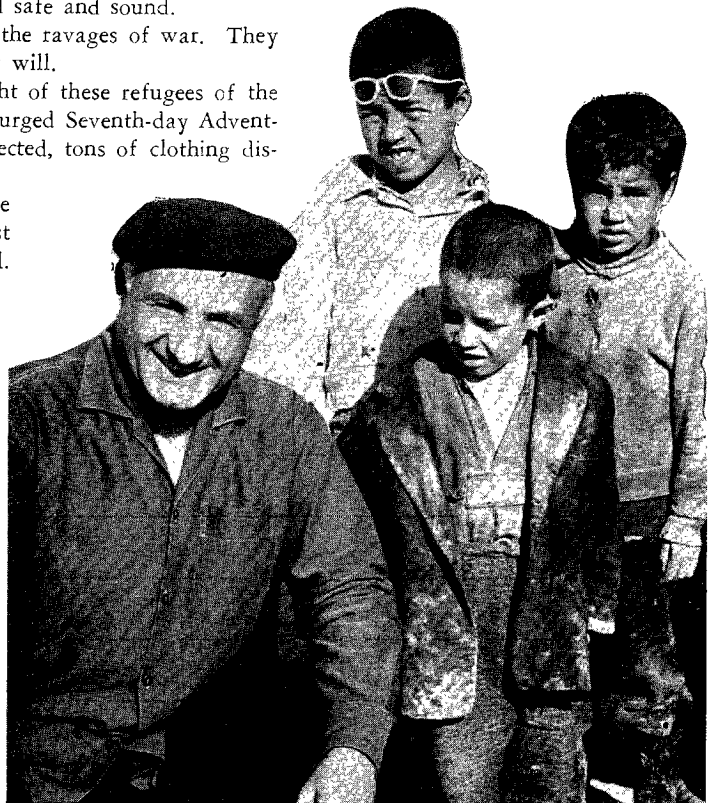
There were others—thousands of them—who fled the ravages of war. They have not returned to their homes. Perhaps they never will.

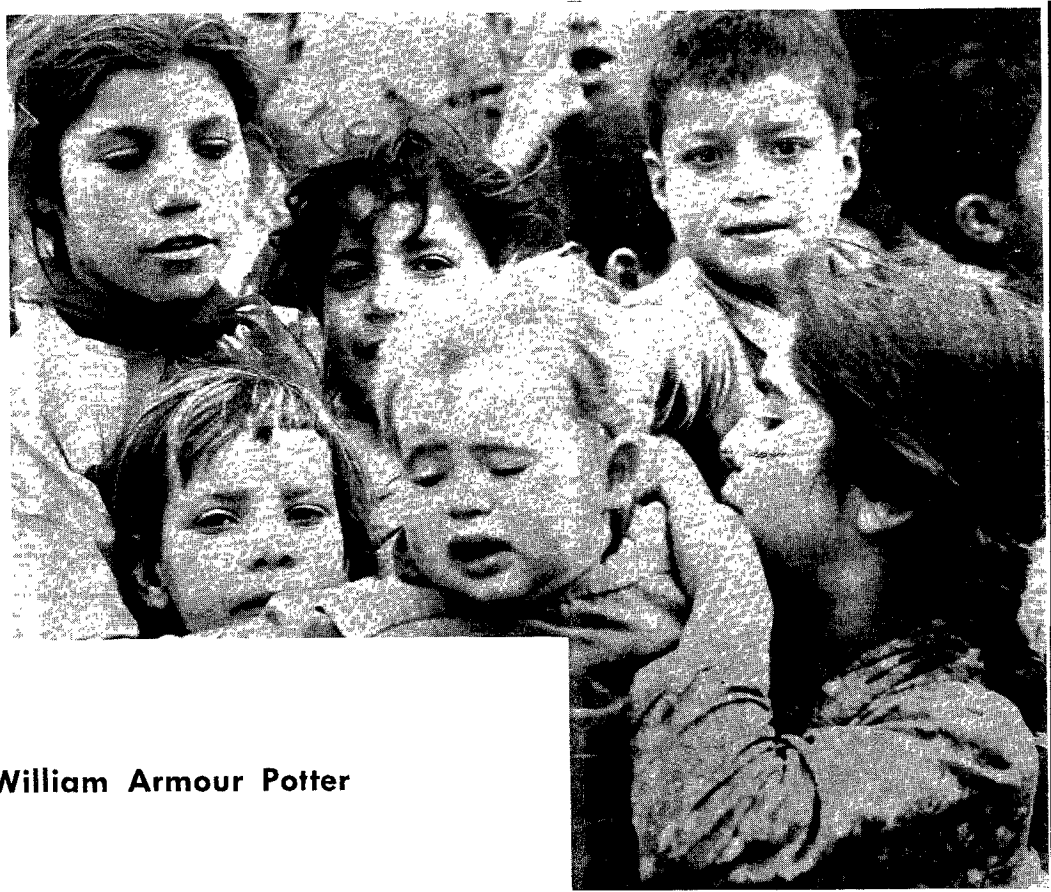
The world would probably like to forget the plight of these refugees of the not-so-Holy Land. But God didn't. His spirit of love urged Seventh-day Adventists into action. You know the story: a tent-camp erected, tons of clothing distributed, orphanage plans pushed.

As a reminder, The Messenger publishes for the first time these selected photos by Pastor-Evangelist William Armour Potter of Dar as-Salam International.

God didn't forget them.

We mustn't either.





Photos by William Armour Potter



## Of Death — and Life

June 6, 1968. Everything is finished except an editorial. Many thoughts, many themes are obvious. Death, for instance. Another Kennedy has just fallen—an apparent victim of the spiritual malignancy that grips the nations of the Middle East. The alleged gunman is reported to be a Jerusalem-born Arab, age 24, whose frustration over the Middle East situation led him to resolve to kill Senator Kennedy by June 5, 1968—the first anniversary of The Six-Day War. His .22-caliber bullets failed by only 104 short minutes.

There are those, though, who are gripped by something better. We had to bury one yesterday. Fouad Nicola Youssef, age 22, worked for his Master until the very end. His last request: more Adventist literature for the patients and personnel of the American University Hospital.

Likewise Zahia Aboujauda, 63. She was a loving mother of the church. Yes, she had a large and active family of her own—and their salvation was her first concern. But she considered it her duty to be a church mother too, and so she was always helping wherever a mother's touch was needed.

Death. An editorial topic of no little probity—even though there's really only one universal question about death screaming for an answer: *Why?*

Sin. It's not a popular answer. But it is the truth. Man lives in a sinful world, therefore is subject to death—by lead poisoning, liver disease, heart failure, or a thousand other nefarious means.

Though man has wrought many wonders in his world, he hasn't conquered death. That's because he hasn't conquered sin. Nor can he do it—alone.

And here we can turn to a more hopeful topic—the greatest topic any editor could ever write about. Briefly this:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only answer to the sin problem. He conquered sin—and therefore death. In Him we can live, in Him we can be.

Middle East malignancy? American tragedy? He can heal men's hearts and minds, binding nations to Himself with bonds of peace and love.

Will it ever happen? It's happening now! Seventh-day Adventists just like you are taking the Word to people just like people you know. And hearts and minds are being healed. Adventists just like you are helping the Saviour save His lost loved ones. *And with His help, they are conquering Death and discovering Life!*

### focus

BY CHARLES MILLS

*Members of the Senior Class of 1968, who influenced you the most during your academic career at Middle East College?*

#### DEGREE CANDIDATES

**RAOUF AUDEH, Lebanon:** Dr. Siegfried Schwantes. He is well-organized. He respects himself and his students.

**ESBER GHORAYEB, Lebanon:** "Pastor James S. Russell. Well-rounded, idealistic—that's Pastor Russell. He can make the subjects he's teaching interesting to the student. That's important."

**WADIE HADDAD, Jordan:** Pastor Russell. Here is a man who utilizes every minute of his time. He's always cheerful."

**GEORGE ISSA, Lebanon:** "Mr. Dale Hepker. He's a great teacher—very fair in his tests and always longsuffering. He's easy to understand too, because he talks slowly and distinctly."

**ELIAS MATOUK, Lebanon:** "The Hepkers. They're good people."

**HASSAN MEHRAN, Iran:** "Dean Ernest Waring. I think I learned more and matured faster under the chastening

knocks of his lectures."

**ESTHER NASHED, Egypt:** "Pastor Russell. He preaches Christianity in his everyday living. He's a person who is ready at any time to extend any help needed."

**NAJI RAZZOUK, Lebanon:** "Dean Ignatius Yacoub and Dr. Stanley Bull [the latter a former affiliate professor from Loma Linda University]. Dean Yacoub likes his students and is considerate of them. He is always ready to help. Dr. Bull was a scholar, yet humble. He was an interesting teacher—and I just loved his smile."

**NASIR SWAIDAN, Lebanon:** Dr. Joseph Khoury and Dr. Schwantes. These two men were very understanding with me. Their openmindedness and willingness to answer all my questions helped me a great deal in my school work."

#### CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES

**DORIS MORRIS, U. S. A.:** "Mr. Leslie Morris. Just guess!"

**MINERVA MOUSA, Lebanon:** "Mrs. Mary Yacoub. She has been of great help to me in my studies and in my work as a student."

## TRANSITION

**BORN** A son to Pastor and Mrs. *Kameel Haddad*, Al Kerak, Jordan, February 17.

**ILL** Evangelist *Salim Japas*, convalescing at home following a seven-hour operation at American University Hospital to repair the detached retina of his left eye.

**DIED** Mrs. *Zahia Aboujauda*, 63, following a severe heart attack; at AUH, May 21. A faithful member of the Mouseitbeh Church for over 20 years, she was buried May 23 in Sebtieh Cemetery below Middle East College after a church service conducted by her pastor, *William Armour Potter*. . . *Fouad Nicola Youssef*, 22, of liver disease; at AUH, June 5. Son of MED Gateman *Nicola Youssef*, the young student literature evangelist would have graduated this month from Middle East Secondary School. The Messenger extends sympathy to the bereaved.

**VISITORS** A covey of Far Eastern Division workers have recently tasted Middle East hospitality: Mountain View College Industrial Manager and Mrs. *E. A. Kay* and family, FED Assistant Secretary and Mrs. *Don A. Roth* and family, Youngberg Memorial Hospital Medical Director and Mrs. *C. A. Olson* and family, West Indonesia Union Mission Education and Youth Secretary and Mrs. *Paul G. Emerson* and family, Far Eastern Academy Registrar and English Instructor and Mrs. *John G. Keys*, and FED Office Secretary *Shirley Hutchins*. Pastors Roth and Emerson visited the College Park and Mouseitbeh churches and presented *The Fabulous Far East* at The Adventist Center during their week end in Beirut.

**GOING HOME TO STAY** Six overseas families terminate their service in the Middle East this year. Two families have already left; the other four go in

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HERSCHEL C. LAMP, M.D.	Medical / Voluntary Cooperation
T. CHRISTOPHER MILLER	Radio / TV / Public School
MASOUD NAJARIAN	Law / Academic / Action / Missionary / Voluntary
DR. HAVEL	

**Goin' Home . . .**

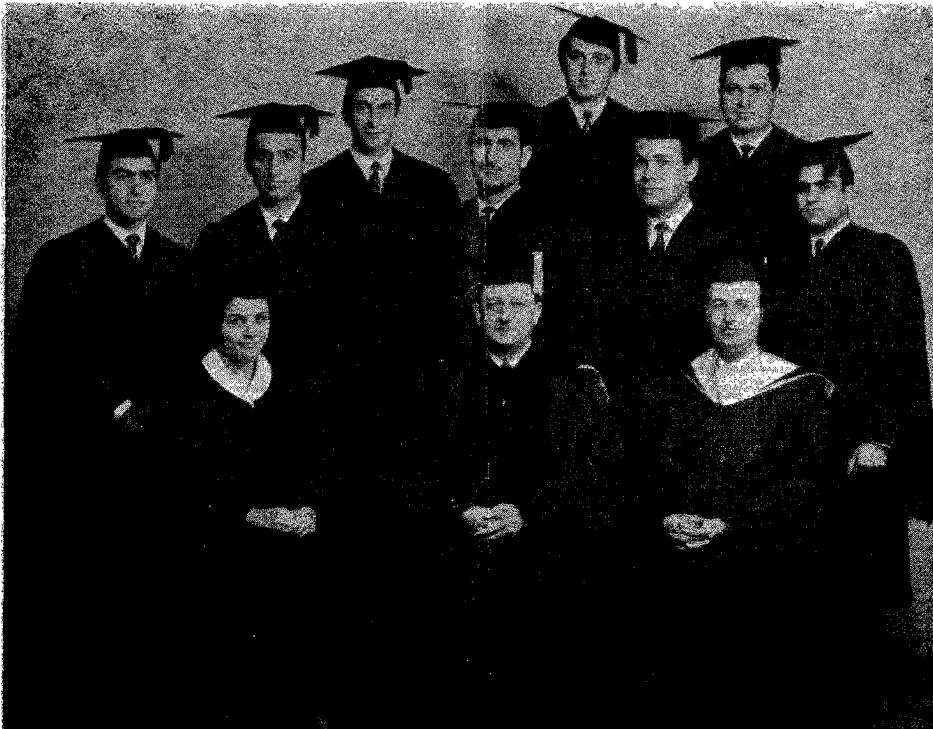


*The Wilmots: To Mt. Vernon.*

the next few days. Cashier and Assistant Auditor and Mrs. *Richard W. Wilmot, Rick, and Steve* (whose MED service dates from November 1958) left Beirut on May 29. *Dick* will become treasurer of Mt. Vernon Academy, Mt. Vernon, Ohio . . . Physical Therapists *Leif and Esther Jensen* (with *Inga and Glenn*, of course) headed for Denmark on June 12. Their service in the Middle East began in January 1958 . . . MEC Science Instructor *Leslie G. Morris* (who joined the faculty in August 1963) goes to Cedar Lake Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan, on June 24.

**Middle East College Senior Class of 1968**

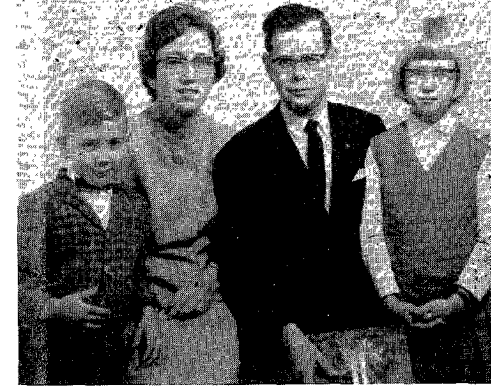
*Members of the Senior Class of 1968 of Middle East College are seen in formal pose with Dr. Kenneth L. Vine, president, and Mr. Ignatius Yacoub, academic dean. Bachelor of Arts degree candidates include (left to right) Hassan Mehran, Esther Nashed, Raouf Audeh, Esber Ghorayeb, George Issa, Nasir Swaidan, Elias Matouk, Wadie Haddad, and Naji Razzouk. At lower right, Doris Morris and Minerva Mousa, certificate candidates.*



Wife *Doris* will have received her secretarial studies certificate the day before. *David and Sharon* (both clarinetists) will see their sister *Mary* who's been studying in the States since 1966 . . . The *James S. Russell* family have been in the process of returning to the States for a number of years, but they've never fully succeeded in a complete separation from the Middle East they've served since September 1946. *Jimmy* has worked in several fields in many and varied capacities. Most recently he has been the pastor of the College Park Church and a history instructor at MEC. *Carolyn* has taught scores of Middle East youth how to read, write, and speak good English. Back in 1961 *Janet*, the Russells' eldest offspring, became the first to go home. *Malcolm* followed in 1966. *Glenn* left as recently as May 30. That leaves *Ardis* who's going with her parents when they start for the Pennsylvania Conference on June 24 . . . MEC Music Department Chairman and Mrs. *Jim Stephan, Melody, Jimmy, and Billy* came to Beirut in September 1966. They leave June 24 for Southfield Junior Academy, Detroit, Michigan, where MEC's music man resumes the principalship he left two years ago . . . The *Ernest Waring* family sets a course for Bakersfield Academy, Bakersfield, California, on June 24. He's been dean of men at MEC, with service

dating from October 1953. *Angie* has been a busy mother: the family includes *Bill, Randy, Becky, and Beverly* . . . The Messenger joins the chorus farewelling these who are homeward bound. *Allah ma'kum!*

ON FURLOUGH BAH Staff Nurse *Rae Anna Brown*, April 1; on a regular furlough long overdue: more than four years have passed since her last leave . . . BAH Schoolmaster *Aaron L. Dennis* and family, May 24; extended furlough and study leave at Andrews University; returning in September 1969 . . . Iran Section Pastor-Evangelist *Robert D. Hyde* and family, June 1; to the States for three months . . . BAH Staff Physician *Mike T. Oliverio* and family, June 3; on a 15-month furlough



*The Jensens: To Denmark.*

**MEC Sets Services**

Guest speaker for Middle East College's 1968 commencement ceremonies to be held on the campus Sunday, June 23, will be the president of Lebanese University, Dr. Fouad Al-Bustani.

Following Dr. Bustani's address, MEC President Kenneth L. Vine will confer Bachelor of Arts degrees on nine candidates. Two others will receive certificates.

Dr. Siegfried J. Schwantes, chairman of MEC's division of religion, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon, *Man-kind's Finest Hour*, on Sabbath, June 22.

The annual commencement, climax of the nine-month school year, gets under way Friday evening, June 21, when Pastor Robert C. Mills, treasurer of the Middle East Division, presents the consecration service message, *The Motive Supreme*.



and study leave (advanced work in public health) at Loma Linda University . . . BAH Technician *Eliseo Oliverio* and family, June 6; 12-month furlough and study leave in the Philippines . . . MEC President *Kenneth L. Vine*, and family, June 24; to the States for three months . . . Veteran Lebanon



*Sister Bianca: A happy birthday.*

Section Bible and English Instructor *Ruby Williams*, June 27; to Canada for three months—her sixth furlough. She first came to the Middle East in 1945 . . . Secretary and Mrs. *Ray L. Jacobs*, July 15; three months in the States followed by attendance at the Autumn Council (See *TRANSITION*, p. 15)

## Division News: from p. 3

\* GC Vice President F. L. Bland and GC Assistant Treasurer Martin E. Kemmerer, representatives to the year-end committee meeting, November 8-14.

Members of the committee voted to purchase two new motion pictures, Pastor Webster reported. *Crusader for Freedom*, a religious liberty film, and *Doorway to Discovery*, a lay activities production, will be added to the MED film library.

In another action, committee members voted to reaffirm the church's opposition to mixed-faith marriages among members. A worker who enters into an engagement for marriage with a non-Adventist stands to lose his church post, according to the committee action.

Evangelism appropriations totaling LL79,678 were approved at the committee session. The Lebanon Section will get LL30,000, the largest share.

The gift Bible evangelism program was adopted. Church members are to purchase 8,000 Bibles to be presented with study guides to family and friends. Lebanon is to lead in this project with 2,250 Bibles. The gift Bible plan is already being used in Beirut's Mouseitbeh church where Pastor William

Armour Potter's Society of the 70 has high enthusiasm for this laymen's activity.

### Education

Field Secretary Robert Darnell, now at the University of Michigan, will complete his dissertation proposal by October and is expected to return to Beirut following the General Conference Fall Council. Pastor Darnell, editor of *The Middle East Messenger*, will finish writing and then defend his dissertation here. He is studying in the field of early Islamic theology.

The committee authorized Middle East College Arabic Department Chairman Henry Melki to remain at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C., for an additional 18 months to obtain a doctorate in linguistics. Mr. Melki went to the States last summer to work on his Master's degree. The addition of a doctoral-level professor teaching in the language field will satisfy urgent demands on MEC coming from both the Lebanese government and the college's affiliate, Loma Linda University.

The ministerial scholarship program was applied in behalf of MEC Theology Students George Dragatsi and Najeeb Nakhle. Mr. Dragatsi will spend the coming summer in Cyprus where his knowledge of modern Greek can be used advantageously. Mr. Nakhle will join Dar as-Salam International in Ras Beirut.

In order to implement Middle East College's plan to offer a minor in the field of Islamics, the committee voted to place a call with the General Conference for a specialist in that field, suggesting Pastor Pangarisan Sitompul, an Indonesian who spent several years studying for his B.D. in Islamics at the Near East School of Theology here in Beirut.

### Lay Activities

The committee voted to designate 1969 as "Layman's Year in the Middle East," with a goal of 100 souls to be won by laymen.

To help achieve this goal—and go way beyond, the Lay Activities Department will issue a new penetration tract. Pastor Webster said that "the plan is to give one of these tracts to every family in the Middle East. That's quite a task!"

The committee set the 1969 Ingathering goal at LL39,843. Lebanon has the largest section goal—LL18,000.

Jordan's request for 100 more bales of clothing and 200 blankets for welfare work was approved and sent on to Washington.

### Medical

Benghazi Adventist Hospital registered a request with the committee for the transfer of physical therapy equipment presently located in the Beirut Physiotherapy Clinic. The Beirut clinic will be closed this month.

### Publishing

The Missionary Book of the Year for 1969 is to be a combined edition in Arabic of Ellen G. White's *Christ's Object Lessons* and *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. The committee action authorizes the Middle East Press to print 3,000 copies.

Four new members were appointed to the Literature Planning and Reading Committee: Evangelist Salim Japas, Iraq Section President Salim Majeed, Iran Section Departmental Secretary Hovik Sarrafian, and Benghazi Hospital Health Educator Jerald Whitehouse.

Plans for student literature evangelist summer sales work received approval. MEC's Francis Saliba, Ghalib Azar, Henry Yousef Ahmadabadi, Armen Youssefi, Nathan Malaka, and Semir Naguib, will canvass in Iraq, Kuwait, and Libya.

### Radio-TV

The appointments of Radio-TV Advisory Committee members were confirmed. The new committee is comprised of President Webster, chairman; Pastor Curtis Miller, secretary; Secretary Jacobs, Evangelist Japas, Treasurer Mills, Iraq Section President Majeed, and Lebanon Section Bible School Director Philip Srour.

### Sabbath School

The Arabic edition of the *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* will be enlarged from 48 pages to 64. The press run will jump to 1,500, and the price will rise to LL6 per year. The larger *Quarterly* will permit inclusion of all questions and notes appearing in the English edition.

### Youth

The Middle East Division will send 30 delegates to the World Congress of Seventh-day Adventist Youth in Zurich next year. The Division will also sponsor a promotional booth at the congress.

### Turkey Section

The committee entrusted Turkey Section President and Secretary-Treasurer Manuk Benzatyan with all departmental responsibilities. Turkey Section Executive Committee members appointed are Pastor Benzatyan, chairman; Mrs. Anahid Benzatyan, recording secretary; Miss Yebraksie Gomig, Bible instructor; and Laymen Zihni Kaymaz and Kevork Yeshil.

Also Goin' Home . . .



*The Russells: To Pennsylvania.*

**TRANSITION:** from p. 14

of the General Conference in Toronto . . . Also, BAH Technician *Munir Masloub* and family returning to Lebanon for regular furlough.

HONORED The Heliopolis (Egypt) Church's *Sister Bianca* was honored at a reception given for her on the occasion of her eightieth birthday. The Messenger correspondent in Egypt says she's "untiring" in her work for the church. She is active in the Dorcas Society, doing embroidery and needlecraft. She also teaches piano to the girls living at the Matariah Mercy Home.

ON DUTY *Leon D. Thomassian*, BAH office employee, May 17. An Iraqi Armenian, he came from Spicer Memorial College, India, where he was president of the Senior Class of 1968 . . . Duty called MEP Editor in Chief *Naim Awais* to Singapore on June 9 for the Far Eastern Division Editors' Council. His trip includes stops in Poona, Bangkok, Tehran, and Baghdad. Nice duty! APPOINTMENTS Iran: Pastor *Ralph Nickell*, pastor-evangelist. Most recently attached to the Idaho Conference in the U. S., he, Wife *Betty*, and Children *Terri*, 13, and *Jerry*, 12, arrive at summer's end. In the meantime he's taking intensive Farsi in New York City . . . Benghazi Adventist Hospital: Dr. R. *Dean Dietrich*, relief physician. A brother of Mrs. *Judy Whitehouse*, wife of BAH Health Educator *Jerald Whitehouse*, Dr. Dietrich, Wife *Lois*, Children *Tamra*, 4, and *Gregory*, 3, arrive in August . . . Dr. *D. Rob Johnson*, relief physician. Presently serving with the United States Air Force, Dr. Johnson worked at BAH in 1964. That's when he successfully courted and later mar-



*The Stephans: To Detroit.*

ried Nurse *Odette Semaan* (sister of *Jabbour Semaan* and Mrs. *Venice Khoury*, wife of Evangelist *George Khoury*) . . . Dr. *George N. Benson*, staff physician. Now at Riverside Hospital, Orlando, Florida, Dr. Benson ("A prince of a fellow!" says Medical Secretary *Herschel C. Lamp*) and his family arrive in October . . . Miss *Anne Meyer*, director of nurses. Presently at Charles F. Kettering Memorial Hospital, Kettering, Ohio, Miss Meyer arrives in July . . . Middle East College: Dr. *Justin C. Hamer*, chairman, department of chemistry. Now on the faculty of Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland, Dr. Hamer once taught in Cuba. The Hamer family will arrive in early September . . . Miss *Minerva Mousa*, staff secretary. She receives her certificate in secretarial studies from MEC this month . . . *Naji Razzouk*, manager, College Store. Long a student worker at the store, Mr. Razzouk receives his B.A. degree this month . . . *George Khoury*, cashier. Now manager of the College Store, Mr. Khoury will succeed Miss *Marie Nashed* who soon leaves for Canada . . . *Milad Abdul Karim*, assistant purchasing agent . . . *Ray Doyle*, dean of men. A versatile instrumentalist and bandmaster, he is presently dean of men at Valley Grande Academy, Weslaco, Texas . . . *Ralph M. Coupland*, chairman, department of music. He is on the music faculty of Kingsway College, Oshawa, Ontario . . . *James Segar*, instructor in business administration. Right now he's the ac-



*The Warings: To Bakersfield.*

countant at Cedar Lake Academy . . . Mouseitbeh School: *George Issa*, instructor. He's the chaplain of the 1968 Senior Class at MEC . . . Bourj Ham-moud School: *Emmanuel Ansurlian*, instructor. Mr. Ansurlian is an experienced teacher and Christian worker who, with Wife *Manoushag*, joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in January following studies with *Leif Jensen* and Dr. *Kenneth Vine*.

*The Morris: To Cedar Lake.*



The famed Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital (small photo, below right) appeals for a generous Sabbath school overflow offering on June 29 in order to expand its medical-mission training facilities. For it is from Sydney that dedicated workers fan out over the vast Australasian Division and even far beyond.

Photographer Eric Were takes us on a jungle tour. Below, Nurse Ione Markey treats a very young patient with the assistance of a native nurse. The mother and twins pictured at the bottom have arrived from their village to receive treatment from the mobile clinic. Bottom right, Miss Markey conducts a 7 a.m. branch Sabbath school near Sopas, New Guinea. Sydney San graduates minister to man's spirit as well as his body.



*Multiple-meeting evangelistic efforts:*

60 baptisms during the first four months of 1968. Campaigns conducted by Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury and Egypt Section President Habib Ghali in Assuit, Beni Adet, and Beni Sheraan.

*5-Day Plan:* 107 have stopped smoking.

*Temperance film show:* 2,500 attend program sponsored by police chief.

*Tithe and SS Investment:* Going way up. Tithe goal is now Eg£1,000.

*Public favor:* The Assuit area is a stronghold of other denominations, but Seventh-day Adventists can now claim almost all of the Christians of Beni Sheraan. Government and education officials have granted Sabbath privileges to the daughters of District Pastor Fakhry Naguib.

*Assuit Church seating problem:* Very critical (see photo above). The congregation is doing more than mere idle dreaming about a new building, reports Pastor Naguib.

