

Sincerely yours in Christian love,

Robert A. Hanson

Middle East Messenger

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While serving in South America a number of years ago, I visited a city where a mission headquarters had been established and where several churches had been organized and were flourishing.

It being prayer meeting night, I made plans to attend the service. On the way I stopped at the home of one of our workers to make an inquiry concerning some matter about which he was familiar. Another worker family was visiting in the home. The two families were obviously preparing for an evening of recreation and not planning to attend prayer meeting. What seemed to me even stranger was that there was no sign of embarrassment on their part. It seemed to be a perfectly natural circumstance. I, of course, gave no hint of what was going on in my mind.

After obtaining the information for which I had come, I excused myself, suggesting that I must hasten on or I would be late to prayer meeting. Still there was no reaction, no evidence of qualms, no pangs of conscience. I had expected at least a statement something like, "We usually go to prayer meeting too, but tonight we have planned this little get-together," or "Today is Johnny's birthday and we are having a little celebration. For this once we will skip prayer meeting for the sake of the children." Some such brief explanation, I felt, would have been appropriate, but as I left the doorstep it was only a very cordial, "Good-bye! We'll see you in the morning at the office!"

As I walked on toward the church I formed a rather harsh judgment regarding the spiritual quotient of the two workers involved. I also tried to determine what I might say to them at some opportune moment that would help them to sense their own need of attending the mid-week prayer service and also would call to their minds the factor of their influence on others.

Fortunately I did not express my harsh judgment of these two families to anyone. Not long after this encounter, I found out—to my personal chagrin—that prayer meeting in the particular church which they attended came on a different night. What had seemed to me to be an obvious fault was really no fault at all, for both families regularly attended the prayer services of their church and enjoyed the resulting spiritual vigor.

How often we are tempted to judge the actions of another when we are ignorant of what may have guided those actions or what may have been the motivating factor that prompted such behavior. It is relatively easy to make mental deductions as to why a person may have done this or that. It is also true that such deductions may be wholly wrong.

Add the evil of judging others to the double evil of criticizing the acts of others, and we have one of Satan's best-developed plans for destroying the effectiveness of the church in its conquest for souls.

"There is nothing that so retards and cripples the work in its various branches as jealousy and suspicion and evil surmisings." Ellen G. White: *Evangelism*, p. 633.

"There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing envy, suspicion, fault-finding, and evil-surmising." Ellen G. White: *The Acts of The Apostles*, p. 549.

"Jealousy, evil surmisings, and accusing close the door to the working of the Holy Spirit." Ellen G. White: *Evangelism*, p. 370.

Ellen White considered evil surmising a "hellish shadow." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 3, p. 1163.

May mutual confidence in one another characterize our conquest for souls in the Middle East Division, and may that "hellish shadow" of evil surmising or hasty judgment of a brother never fall across our pathway as we face together today's tremendous task!

A. C. Webster

Katrib Cousins Get New Posts



Above: Syrian church members meet at The Damascus Center. Right: Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury and other Syria Section Biennial Session delegates flank President Maurice Katrib.



Below: Newly-appointed Acting President and Mrs. Gabriel Katrib with new Division Publishing Secretary Maurice Katrib.

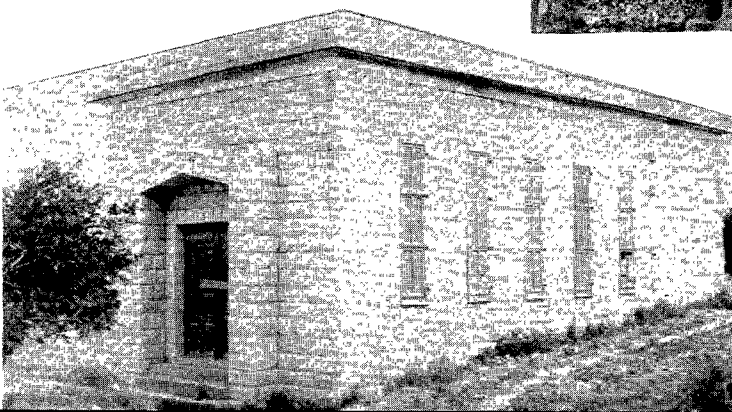


The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syria, which necessarily works in a relatively quiet manner, bursts into the spotlight this summer as two Syrian ministers—cousins—assume new positions.

● Syria Section President Maurice Katrib, church leader in Damascus since 1958, has been appointed by the General Conference in Washington to be secretary of the publishing department of the Middle East Division.

● Pastor Gabriel Katrib, whose loyalty to nation and faithfulness to church are known as a result of his service in the Syrian army, was named by the Middle East Division Executive Committee on July 11 to be acting president of the Syria Section.

(See SYRIA: p. 8)



Above left: Church group at Bazaq, Syria, meeting "temporarily" in a house. Left: The Bazaq church building has been under governmental seal for 18 years. Above: Church members at Mazraab, Syria. Photos by Salim Japas and George Khoury.

My First Experience At Camp Meeting

BY A. A. ("BABY") ARATHOONIAN

The 1968 Iran Seventh-day Adventist Camp Meeting convened on the campus of Iran Adventist Academy from June 20-29. This was my first experience at a camp meeting, for I am an Armenian of the Gregorian Church.

It so happened that I went to visit a friend at the academy. As I entered the academy gardens, I noticed to my great surprise a long row of tents with sober men, women, and children scattered all over the green lawn and under the shady trees. These people greeted me cordially and in a friendly manner.

President Webster (second from left) was a special guest at the 1968 Iran Section Camp Meeting. With him on the platform are Pastor George Terzibashian, Iran Section President Harold Gray, and Mr. Daniel Minassian.



Finding my way to my friend's bungalow, I sat down. Almost immediately I heard a gong. A short pause followed. Then soft sounds of singing voices reached my ears, carried on the soft, cool breeze of the evening. Automatically I stood up and went to the source of the sound: a big tent where a large congregation was praying. I too knelt down, said my prayers, and then listened to the sermon attentively, as if a camel had reached an oasis in the desert.

I was there for two things: first, to find out what it was all about; and second, to hear what they would say for or against my church. I carefully listened to all the preachers. I heard no criticism or ill talk against any denomination whatsoever.

The sermon that evening was all about the creation of the world and the ten commandments. Brother Curtis Miller had the crowd listening to him

MEET "BABY" ARATHOONIAN

Big, brawny—just the kind of muscleman who might have been a boxer. Exactly! That's what "Baby" Arathoonian was once—in fact, a champion boxer!

"Baby" Arathoonian has traveled "three-quarters of the world. For many years in India, I was a teacher in an Armenian college, and then I was in charge of sports and physical training."

Mr. Arathoonian's chance (?) visit to a friend at the Iran Adventist Camp Meeting this summer has now opened up a new world to him and his family—as his own story tells.

quietly. Everything he said was straight from the Bible without any exaggeration.

This worship service impressed me so much that I immediately rushed down to town and fetched up my wife and kids to spend the rest of the camp week with these people. I now realized that as much as it is necessary for men to drink, to dress up well, to look after themselves, to be happy, etc., etc., it is even more necessary to feed the soul as well in order to receive everlasting peace and happiness in heaven.

During the camp meeting I solemnly attended all the worships, mixed freely with the crowd and with the elders, discussed openly various religious subjects, and argued with the wise men. At times I was deliberately rude, going to extremes in order to get to the truth, but these people took everything calmly, slowly convincing me what is right. I found no enticement, no force of financial gain to draw the crowd. Before, I too had doubted the sincerity of the Adventists, but now I think otherwise.

I found the elders very keen and intelligent. They spoke clearly and impressively. All present were warned to be ready, for signs are showing that the second coming of Christ is nigh. The second coming of Christ is nigh. It was emphasized that it is better to suffer and be tortured in prisons in the name of Christ. Examples were given: how Daniel was thrown before the lions, how Peter was thrashed five times, and above all, how Christ Himself was crucified for our own sins. These speeches left good effects on the congregation.

We noticed that punctuality was well-observed, for the people did not want to miss the simple, frank, and straightforward subjects presented directly from the Bible. In the English language, Brothers Harold Gray, Curtis Miller, and George Khoury were good, but Brother Frederick C. Webster was outstanding. As he spoke, the congregation simply hung on his lips. In the Iranian

language, Brother Morovati was the best, and in Armenian, Brother George Terzibashian was outstanding. Young George is most sincere in his belief. He has the makings of a great leader and preacher, what with the Christian zest and go he has. Brother Arsen Keshishzadeh was extremely good in translating the speeches from English to Iranian.

Another great attraction of the worships was the solo singing of Brother Harold Gray and his venerable old



Pastor Harold Gray congratulates an enthusiastic troop of Persian Pathfinders on the year's activities.

father who is 75 years of age. And their singing together was superb. It is a blessing on earth for a father, a mother, and a son to be so loving and good and to walk along the same road together to God.

Always I found respect, modesty, and discipline reigning all over the camp. Every one was pleased when he could in any way help others. A healthy, pious atmosphere prevailed. All the people were treated as equals: rich and poor, sick and healthy. It looked as if we were in the Garden of Eden. God seemed to be so close to us that everyone felt His presence and behaved extremely well.

Needless to say, the camp arrange-



Two faithful Iran church members meet Pastor Gray at the pulpit in the main tent. The lady is handicapped: she has only one leg.

ments were perfect and everyone was comfortable. Brothers M. H. Morovati, Henry Mousally and Daniel Minassian were seen from early morning to late in the evening all over the camp looking after the welfare of the people and their comforts. The camp area was always kept neat and tidy. Quite often I saw Brother Gray picking up pieces of paper from the ground to keep the place clean. Special credit also goes to Mrs. Moravati who was in charge of camp catering. Her dishes were delicious, especially surprising seeing no meat was used.

I learned a good lesson from this camp meeting: when I was a boy, I enjoyed all the privileges granted to youth, but now that I am a grown up man I have a duty to God, my country, and mankind. I pray Almighty to grant me patience, strength, and power to fulfill these obligations before I am worthy of being called a good Christian. I am glad I attended the camp meeting and changed my opinion about Seventh-day Adventists.

The children's camp meeting was held July 1-9, 1968, on the same grounds with the same arrangements and comforts.

I saw these happy youngsters excitedly frisking about under the trees and among the flowers and rosebushes, as if butterflies or lambs in the early spring.

My little daughter Sonya was so thrilled to be there that the night before going up she hardly slept. Every few hours she would jump up saying, "Not yet morning?"

Sonya is so attached to her mother that it's a wonder to us how she stayed away nine days. Every day she phoned us saying, "O, Mum and Papa, I am so happy here! Please don't

come up to take me away. I have learned so many hymns, songs, verses from the Bible, and stories about Jesus Christ. I always say my prayers before going to bed and so God keeps me healthy and happy. You know, Mum, dear Jesus has said all the children are brothers and sisters, and so I have shared with them all the sweets and cakes you sent me."

This is the spirit with which the children are looked after and treated. Brother Hovik Sarrafian, in charge of this children's camp, was responsible for creating such an excellent, healthy atmosphere for these kids. No doubt he has tons of patience, a cool temper, and the know-how to work smoothly with the kids.

The campfires were most thrilling for the children. For these happy hours Brother Gordon Pifher should be congratulated. This young Canadian had come all the way from college in America to be with our children. He sings well, tells good stories, and knows how to get on well with the children. Our children will not forget him for a long time.

After the campfire, the children prayed and then tired, but very happy, rolled into their beds.

Pastor Hovik Sarrafian conducted a baptismal service during the 1968 Iran Section Camp Meeting.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church



WORLD HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GENERAL CONFERENCE
6840 Eastern Avenue NW.
Takoma Park, Washington, D.C. 20012

June 16, 1968

Dear Fellow Believers Around the World:

Two years ago today thousands of God's people were together in Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan. On that day some of us took over burdens carried long and effectively by worthy predecessors. Your prayers and wonderful cooperation have sustained and strengthened us during the problem-filled intervening months. It has been a joy to serve you in the great challenge of finishing God's work in the earth and hastening the return of our Saviour.

Much has happened during those two years. The smoldering Middle East has burst into flames, posing a threat to world peace. The war in Vietnam has been escalated and thousands of servicemen and hapless civilians have died in the holocaust. In America block after block of the large cities have shuddered with rioting--fire bombing, shooting, and looting. These and other tragic events of our day tell us that the end of all things is at hand!

Brethren and sister, what are we doing about it? Is it the same old business-and-pleasure-as-usual program? Have the ominous events crowding in upon us failed to arouse us, failed to stir us to action? Dare we continue heedlessly on in our old Laodicean lukewarmness when God is seeking to revive and reform a people who will be ready for His Son's return in the near future?

Thousands of earnest Adventists around the world have been praying fervently that something would happen to the members of God's church--that we would be awakened to our true spiritual condition, that our eyes would be opened to our great need, and that this awakening would result in a great revival and the outpouring of the latter rain. Surely this is God's will. The stage is set. The hour is long overdue!

I wish I could sit down and talk with each one of you personally--to share with you a concern that I feel to the very depths of my being. This concern is that all of us might understand more clearly the solemnity of the hour in which we live. God is expecting something of each of us--first, that our own lives shall be put in order, and then that we play our part in sharing our faith with those about us. We are two years nearer eternity than when we were together in Detroit. Have those two years seen a change in our lives that makes us more prepared for the ominous events just before us?

We say we want revival. How sincerely do we desire that revival? Enough to permit the Holy Spirit to begin the revival in our own lives? Are we willing to pay the price of full surrender, entire consecration, that will pave the way for revival? Brethren and sisters, something must happen to God's people--to you, to me! Something will happen--to you, to me--if we are willing to pay the price--full surrender to Him.

To the more than 60,000 denominationally employed workers and self-supporting workers around the world, I have a special word as we reach the halfway point in this quadrennium. God is expecting much of us as leaders. Our people are expecting much of us! We dare not fail God nor our fellow believers who have confidence in us. We must be what we desire our members to become. We must be in the vanguard of the revival and reformation! There must be no credibility gap to separate us from the people whom God has called us to serve in these closing, challenging hours of earth's history! Our living, our preaching, our service, must leave no room for doubt as to where we stand in the great controversy! Ours must be revival leadership, latter rain leadership. It dare not be otherwise.

To the thousands of church officers serving God's church faithfully in many lands, I make a special appeal. God has laid upon you a solemn responsibility. Whether you are an elder, a deacon, a deaconess, a church treasurer, a Sabbath school superintendent or secretary, an MV leader, or any other officer, God is counting on you to be His witness--His mouthpiece. You are His man, His woman, in your local church. Perhaps He is expecting even more of you as a leader than He expects of those who sit under your ministry. Many eyes are upon you. What do they see--Jesus or the world? Does "the gospel according to you" ring true?

Fellow workers and church officers, let us lead our people into a great fellowship of prayer--in our own closets, in our offices, in our churches, in our institutions--wherever we may be. If two million workers and believers in the Advent hope are praying daily for revival and for a finished work, something is bound to happen. Something will happen!

Our Bible--the precious Word of God--must be a part of our daily experience with Him. It is so easy to let the daily paper, the weekly news magazine, the radio, the TV, and many other things crowd out the time we should spend with the Word. Only the Book that comes from God will lead us to God! In an age of moral relativism, when spiritual values are being eroded by unbelief, when emphasis is placed upon a theology of social change, God's people must be anchored to the Rock. Our only safety in a permissive age of doubt is in close contact with our Source of power through His Word.

So, brother, sister of mine--how is it with you? Does this halfway point in our current quadrennium find you two years better prepared to meet your Master? Has victory over sin become a reality in your life? Have the penetrating beams of revival flooded the chambers of your heart? Has the Lord used you to win some souls for Christ during these two years? Is your life a daily witness for Him?

Time is slipping by so rapidly! We dare not delay. Revival, reformation, sacrifice, and evangelism are still the challenge of the hour. God has heard the appeal of His people. God has blessed. Multiplied thousands are responding and moving into line. The next two years must be the best, the most power-filled years in the history of God's remnant church. My personal appeal to you--yes, you individually--is that through God's strength you will help to make it so!

Sincerely yours in Christian love,



MEC Salutes Scholars For Superior Studies

Middle East College Academic Dean Ignatius Yacoub presented academic honors to several students in a special assembly held on the campus in early June.

Citing the criteria by which a student is honored during the third quarter of a school year, Mr. Yacoub said, "Students must have carried during the entire year a minimum study load of 12 quarter hours, maintained a minimum 3.25 GPA, and received no grades lower than C nor any Incompletes."

Students who qualified for the special honors included Wisam Awais, Maida Azadian, George Issa, Salim Khalaf, Adel Kronfly, Elias Matouk, Nabil Razzouk, Mohammad Shakibnia, Nasir Swaidan, and Vartouhi Terzibashian.

Dean Yacoub observed that "if these

students maintain the same standard during their final two years at MEC, they will graduate with honors."

The office of the dean later released the honor roll for the spring quarter—the list of students who, during the school year's third quarter, achieved a 3.25 or better grade point average. The honor roll:

George Issa—4.00; Nabil Razzouk—4.00; Vartouhi Terzibashian—4.00;

Bahige Mina—3.81; Maida Azadian—3.76; Elias Matouk—3.75; Raymond Kiraz—3.70;

Amal Daher—3.58; Salim Khalaf—3.41; Mae Abdul Karim—3.35; Levon Nazirian—3.35; Nasir Swaidan—3.35; Suad Koko—3.31; Ibtissam Abdo—3.29; Mohammad Shakibnia—3.27; Wisam Awais—3.26.

ON THE CAMPUS

The Middle East College Board of Management authorized the promotion in faculty rank of several members of the faculty. To associate professor: Dr. Joseph Khoury, Miss Violet Wentland, Dean Ignatius Yacoub, and Mrs. Mary Yacoub. To assistant professor: Pastor Bert Gillerth, Mr. Edmond Haddad, Mrs. Wilma Hepker, and Mr. Baldur Pfeiffer.

Upon his arrival, Dr. Justin Hamer will become chairman of the division of science and mathematics. Mr. Baldur Pfeiffer has been appointed chairman of the division of history and fine arts.

Acting deans of men and women for the summer are Mr. Dale Hepker and Miss Marie Nashed.

Faculty for the 1968-69 school year at Sabtiyeh Arabic Elementary School will include Mrs. Mary Bitar, principal, succeeding Mrs. Haifa Aboujauda (who had previously succeeded Mrs. Bitar); Mrs. Widad Issa, Mrs. René Katrib, Mrs. Venice Khoury, Mrs. Nisreen Shahin, and Mrs. Sarah Sour.

Miss Wentland Wins Second M.A.

Now that she has a second master of arts degree, Miss Violet Wentland is busy in faraway California getting ready to return to Middle East College where she will take over as director of the

School of Intensive English.

Miss Wentland, a member of MEC's faculty for several years, received her master's degree in English at Loma Linda University's June commencement. She already has an M. A. in the field of home economics.

SYRIA: from page 3

The new publishing secretary moves to Beirut next month as soon as his cousin transfers from northern Syria to Damascus.

Pastor Maurice Katrib's appointment fills a Division-level vacancy existing ever since Pastor Derwood L. Chappell, now assistant manager of the Potomac Book and Bible House, Takoma Park, Maryland, returned to the States last July.

Pastor Gabriel Katrib was ordained at a service in The Adventist Center, Beirut, on December 23.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syria numbers approximately 200 members. The section has five organized churches and additional smaller companies.

The Syria Section Biennial Session has held April 12-14 at The Damascus Center with Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury representing the Division.

Pastor Maurice Katrib presided at the business meeting during which, Evangelist Japas reported, "different aspects of the work were studied and decisions were made to continue the task with renewed strength and faith."

Biologist Johnson, Family Now at MEC

Middle East College's new biology instructor is on the campus and now orienting himself to life in the—orient.

He is Mr. Gary Gene Johnson. He is tall. He holds a master's degree in biology from Walla Walla College. He has a pretty blonde wife named Verta—and they have a baby girl named Garlyn who was born April 11, right in the middle of their preparations for the long trip to Beirut.

Mr. Johnson (faculty colleagues will call him Gene) most recently taught biology at United Medical Laboratories in Portland, Oregon. Previously he was on the faculty of Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska, for five years.

The Johnsons met and married while they were students at Walla Walla, a big SDA college in Washington State. But Mrs. Johnson completed her bachelor's degree in home economics at Union, graduating this June.

Biologist Johnson should find MEC's hillside campus overlooking the Mediterranean an ideal spot to study his particular scientific interests: fish and fowl.





Pastor Hugh Cowles, Pastor Bert Gilleroth, Mr. Moses Elmadjian, and Mr. Najeeb Nakhle plan the next phase of S-T-A-R-T-L-E.

STARTLE Links College Park, Dar as-Salam in Evangelism

As this page of The Messenger went to press, members of the Society To Arouse Ras Beirut Through Living Evangelism had placed more than 80 Bibles with relatives, friends, and total strangers in the metropolitan area of Lebanon's capital.

Known as S-T-A-R-T-L-E, the society is co-sponsored by the College Park Church and Dar as-Salam International. The church provides "Startlers"—teams of two who offer free Bibles and study guides to the occupants of the high-rise apartments in Ras Beirut, scene of Dar as-Salam activity for the past year.

Guiding the program for the congregation are the new minister of The College Park Church, Pastor Bert Gilleroth, and the lay activities director, Pastor Hugh Cowles. Members of S-T-A-R-T-L-E elected Mr. Moses Elmadjian, secretary-treasurer of the Cyprus Section now studying at MEC, to assist Pastors Gilleroth and Cowles. Headquarters work is cared for by Dar as-Salam Associate Richard Lee Fenn and his summer evangelistic assistant, Mr. Najeeb Nakhle.

The joint venture in gift-Bible evangelism began June 5 with a special "This May Startle You!" program featuring Pastor Frederick C. Webster and the Mouseitbeh Church's Society of the Seventy motion-picture story. The very next day Startlers began distributing Bibles in Arabic, Armenian, English, and French—and even one in modern Syriac!

focus

INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS BY CHARLES MILLS

Mouseitbeh's Gift-Bible Plan Leads to Meetings, Baptism

Our interview for this issue is with Pastor-Evangelist William Armour Potter, spiritual leader of The Mouseitbeh Church, Beirut, and an associate of Dar as-Salam International. Questions concern his summer program of evangelistic services which started July 6 and concluded August 3.

Have you had good attendance? significant response?

For the hot summer months, the attendance wasn't bad at all. Visitors representing other faiths have often outnumbered Adventists. One family in particular was outstanding in regular

Four candidates were baptized into the church at Mouseitbeh, June 14. During the special service, certificates were presented to the first graduates of the Mouseitbeh Church's gift-Bible program.

attendance. The response encouraged us to keep using visual aids. The people like them.

You were quite sick during the first two weeks of your campaign. What happened to your plan of attack? Was it upset?

Well, it upset me personally to have to go to the hospital the day before the series began. But my illness didn't upset the program. Evangelist Harley Bresee, director of The Adventist Center here in Beirut, stepped in with all of his experience. Pastor Shahada Halabi was our excellent translator. I'd say the meetings got off to a good start.

What was your campaign "theme"?

The New Jerusalem.

Did your campaign include home visitation?

Certainly—and this increased as the meetings came into the home stretch. We have a growing interest list through the work of Mouseitbeh's lay organization called "The Society of the Seventy". Our people have pioneered in the Middle East with gift-Bible evangelism, placing 135 or more Bibles in homes in our own neighborhood primarily. During our peak period we were checking 70 study guides each week. We still have nearly 35 active students. We've given certificates to 20 or more—and already we have had one baptism

as a direct result of the Society of the Seventy's lay activities.

Any evangelistic plans for the future?

We hope to run another gift-Bible program through the Society of the Seventy come fall, followed by a pre-Christmas campaign conducted by the Division Evangelists Salim Japas and George Khoury.

What evangelistic-planning counsel would you give to the pastors, evangelists, and church members of the Middle East Division?

Start with the gift-Bible program!

Mrs. Nuhad Wakad, being baptized by Mouseitbeh Church Pastor W. Armour Potter, is the Middle East Division's first gift-Bible-evangelism convert.



Cherry-Orchard Evangelism

"I believe that is a house where we have visited a Voice of Prophecy student," Pastor Chafic Srour, president of the Lebanon Section, remarked to his wife and others one Sunday as they were going on a picnic with members of the Bourj Hammoud Armenian Church.

Seeing the family out in the cherry orchard, he approached a young man who was busily picking fruit. "I am looking for Joseph," Pastor Srour said. "Do you know a boy here whose name is Joseph?"

"I am Joseph," the boy replied.

Pastor Srour took a comfortable position under the tree. Looking up at the lad, he began to make a regular—or rather ir-regular—Voice of Prophecy visit.

"You know, Joseph, your name is on the list of people I was to visit tomorrow. You have finished your course; you have studied about the Sabbath and tithing. By now you ought to have accepted all these precious truths. What are you going to do with all this that you have learned to be God's will for you?"

Joseph's mother had come out of the house when she heard the words "Voice of Prophecy." She had seated herself comfortably near the pastor and had listened intently to every word he spoke.

Joseph answered the important question. "You know, Pastor, I am just a student here, and I feel that I cannot step out on my own right now. But I hope some day to make my decision, for I believe what I have studied is the truth.

Joseph went on picking cherries. And Pastor Srour went on giving a real Bible study—for by this time Joseph's father had joined them under the cherry tree.

This is the way the work of the church is going forward in the Middle East these days: Bible studies held under cherry trees with Voice of Prophecy graduates listening as they harvest the red, ripe fruit.

Some day for sure Joseph will be fruit in the kingdom of God. He needs encouragement, of course. With enthusiastic workers and members living the gospel in all kinds of circumstances, he and hundreds (thousands?) of others will be lead by the Spirit to accept and obey the will of God.

A Contest For Writers

The purpose of the Middle East Division Writer's Contest is to obtain articles which can be used in various Seventh-day Adventist publications. The contest is designed to encourage workers and members in the Middle East Division to do creative writing for such journals as Call to Health, Hope, The Middle East Messenger, Ministerial Advance, Review and Herald, The Youth's Instructor, The Sabbath School Worker, Listen, Signs of the Times, and many, many other Adventist publications.

The contest is open to any Seventh-day Adventist who would like to take part. Any number of entries may be submitted in Arabic or English.

The first contest period ranges from July 1 to December 31, 1968. Manuscripts must arrive at the Middle East Division office not later than December 31 to be included in this first contest.

Two categories are open for contestants. Category A will include true-to-fact stories and inspirational articles suitable for periodicals, religious tracts, brochures, or booklets. Each entry must be at least 500 words in length. First award in this category will be LL25 with a second prize of LL15.

Category B is for short meditations and poems. There is no limitation on number of words. The awards are LL15 (first) and LL10 (second).

A grand award of LL50 may be awarded to the best entry chosen from both categories during the six-month contest period.

Other points of interest: (1) All manuscripts will be considered the property of the Middle East Division. (2) The portrayal of mission advance should be clearly indicated as Middle East Division. (3) Permission to publish these articles in any church periodical is automatically granted by the author's participation in the contest. (4) Any additional awards granted by church periodicals will be sent to the author of the piece. (5) Photographs are greatly desired. (6) Articles and other contest entries should have a title page with the author's name on it. The author's name should not appear on any other page so that all entries will be anonymous to the judges.

Contestants may send their entries to Coordinator, Middle East Division Writer's Contest, Post Office Box 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.

ON THE RUN

President Webster received on July 23 the following cable from Acting MV Secretary Manoug Nazirian, directing a youth camp near Alexandria, Egypt, U.A.R.:

"JMV SUCCESS: SEVENTEEN BAPTIZED."

GC Radio-TV Secretary James J. Aitken reported to President Webster July 24 that the Hashemite Broadcasting Service in Amman has "accepted to broadcast free of any charge on the medium wave the program YOUR RADIO DOCTOR. It will be aired each week (either Saturday or Wednesday) from 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. This is a truly significant development giving the church immediate access to the local populace in the Middle East—the heart of the Muslim world. There are over one and one-half million radio sets in the coverage area."

President Webster visited Baghdad, Iraq, for an extended week end in early August. The long hot spell broke—in honor of his visit, some members of the church suggested! The president met with several committees in the interest of the work and counseled with members and workers.

Several young ministers from various parts of the Middle East Division have been invited to Beirut for an intensive evangelistic-training institute to be conducted August 13-20 under the general direction of Evangelist Salim Japas. Daily classes for the trainees will be taught at the Division office. Evening meetings for the public will be held at Middle East College.

The Messenger's acting editor, Pastor Richard Lee Fenn, visited Bnghazi, Cairo, and Amman in late July and early August to gather story and picture material and to survey sites for the next Division film.

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RICHARD LEE FENN	Acting Editor
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ADMINISTRATION	
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RAY L. JACOBS	Education
SALIM JAPAS	Division Evangelist
MAURICE KATRID	Publishing
GEORGE KHOURY	Division Evangelist
HERSCHEL C. LAMP, M.D.	Medical / (Acting) Temperance
L. CURTIS MILLER	Ministerial / Radio-TV / Sabbath School
MANOUG NAZIRIAN	Lay Activities / (Acting) Missionary Volunteer
*On leave	

TRANSITION

APPOINTMENTS Dr. *Rob Johnson*, to be acting medical director of The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi. He arrived in Libya June 14, his wife and son shortly after . . . Pastor *Bert Gilleroth*, to succeed Pastor *James S. Russell* as minister of The College Park Church, Beirut. He also teaches religion and biblical languages at Middle East College. Wife *Marlene* is a mainstay in the MEC music department. They have two little daughters *Christine* and *Renee*. In late August the new pastor will attend the meeting of the New Testament Society in England.

BORN *Terri Lynn* to Pastor and Mrs. *W. Armour Potter*, July 4.

ELECTED The new secretary-treasurer of the South Dakota Conference is the MED's former cashier and assistant auditor, Mr. *Richard W. Wilmot*. When the *Wilmots* left Beirut in late May they planned to go to Mt. Vernon Academy. They learned of the new position in Washington. *Dick*, *Naomi*, and young *Steve* will live in Pierre. *Rick* will attend *Maplewood Academy*, Hutchinson, Minnesota.

FURLOUGHS ETC. Benghazi's *D. Clifford Ludington* family started their three-month stateside furlough June 26 . . . Middle East Secondary School Principal *Jad Katrib* plans a trip to Europe later this summer . . .

To the States . . .



Eldest son of Medical Secretary and Mrs. *Herschel C. Lamp*, tall violinist *David* is now at *Blue Mountain Academy*, Hamburg, Pennsylvania. He left Beirut in early July.

The Pastor Takes a Bride



Happy as newlyweds are supposed to be, *College Park Church Associate Pastor* and Mrs. *Samir Shabin* are seen following their wedding service (conducted by Treasurer *Robert C. Mills*), June 30. Mrs. *Shabin*, a 1968 graduate of *Middle East College* is the former *Miss Nisreen Jerjes*.

Secretary *Ray L. Jacobs*, Wife *Berta*, and her sister began a round-the-world furlough trip July 15. They returned to Beirut much sooner than anyone ever expected when their Cairo-Baghdad flight was diverted here following the recent military coup. The *Jacobs* went on to Tehran shortly. Pastor *Jacobs* will attend the GC Autumn Council in Toronto in October.

GRADUATED MV and Temperance Secretary *Anees A. Haddad*, on study leave in the States, received a master of arts degree in sociology at Loma Linda University's spring commencement. He continues for his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. The *Haddads* are living in Glendale.

HELPING HAND Ohio Conference Medical Secretary *C. W. Trott* gave a helping hand to the medical staff at Benghazi Adventist Hospital earlier this summer.

STUDENT MISSIONARIES The Middle East Division has at last joined the

world fields which welcome student missionaries from various SDA colleges and universities. Two young collegians representing Atlantic Union College and Columbia Union College helped us score this breakthrough. AUC's *Gordon Pifber* arriving June 10, is spending his "term" as a youth and camp worker in Iran, Egypt, Turkey, and Lebanon. CUC's *Ellen Lorenz*, who arrived in May has been "on duty" at The Adventist Hospital, Benghazi. She's a senior-level student nurse. We'll be getting acquainted with *Gordon* and *Ellen* in the next fortnight or so. After that we'll schedule a full feature with pictures on our first student missionaries.

THE HESHBON DIG Adventist archaeologists are digging in at the site of biblical Heshbon in Jordan. Dr. *Siegfried Horn* of Andrews University is directing the expedition (which was scrubbed last year when the Six-Day War broke out). Harvard University has reportedly stated that it is the most important new "dig" of 1968.

WEDDING Egypt Section Pastor *Saad Khilla* and Miss *Leila Antar* were married in Heliopolis on June 17 by President *Frederick C. Webster*.

. . . for School



Next overseas student to leave will be Miss *Judy Nolin*, daughter of MEC Engineer and Mrs. *Lloyd Nolin*. She heads for *Laurelwood Academy*, Gaston, Oregon, in mid-August.

Jordan's Zarqa Company Pack Bus To Attend Baptism



Jordan's Zarqa company is led by Pastor Bisbara Taweel (left). Enthusiastic "shabab" (young boys) join him at the entrance of the Zarqa church building.

Nasrallah, the Damascus Road Man



This is Mr. Nasrallah Nasrallah, the man who was changed on the road to Damascus (*The Messenger*, September-October 1967, p. 8). Since then he has been studying with Pastor Maurice Katrib—earning a reward for faithful attendance at services in The Damascus Center. Although Mr. Nasrallah has not yet joined the church himself, he has led two others in who were baptized by Pastor Katrib recently.



On the occasion of a recent baptism, Pastor Taweel rented a bus to take Zarqa friends to the service. We understand that some 90 persons packed the vehicle. Pastor Taweel's big smile gives his own reaction to the event.

Below, young ladies of Zarqa assist Mrs. Venice Khoury, wife of Evangelist George Khoury, with Sabbath School preparations. Photos furnished by Salim Japas and George Khoury.



Information Ministry Official Presents MEP Books to Grads

Middle East Press received the commendation of a high government official during June graduation ceremonies of the Mercy Society School.

The Adventist publishing house was honored by Mr. Chafic Daher, director of the legal affairs department of the Ministry of Information, for the publishing of good books for children and youth.

Mr. Daher presented copies of the Arabic edition of *Bedtime Stories* to the young graduates of the 300-student school.

Mr. Daher is responsible to the Lebanese government for the content of all books and magazines published in Lebanon. All literature printed in Lebanon must carry his official stamp of approval before circulation.

Requesting copies of *Bedtime Stories* (Arabic) to give to the students, Mr. Daher told MEP Manager Robert E. Anderson and Treasurer Boutros Ghazal that he wanted to give only the best to the children.

Besides his governmental responsibility, Mr. Daher heads a number of philanthropic organizations in Lebanon of which the Mercy School is one.