

Dr. K. L. Vine

Thirtieth Anniversary!! How time flies! Yes, Middle East College has been serving the Adventist youth, and others, for thirty years. From its small beginning in Beirut in 1939 as a junior college called the Adventist College of Beirut it has grown, relocated, and expanded its offerings so that it now is a senior college offering five majors and sixteen minors in which to earn a BA degree. For secretarial studies an Associate in Arts degree is offered, taking two years to complete.

Our thirtieth anniversary is being ce-

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY FOR MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

lebrated on the campus for the college only, for the Secondary and Elementary Sections have now moved to beautiful new buildings at the foot of the hill in part of what used to be our orchard.

Middle East College is a great school because it is God's school, set up and planned according to the divine blueprint. It has the best qualified staff in its history, the permit from the Lebanese government as a school of higher learning, affiliation with Loma Linda University and accreditation from the Education Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

A master plan explains the hopes of Middle East College for the next fifteen years. Every year a generous Board, supported by the faithfulness and generosity of God's people around the earth, votes something extra to help

bring to fulfillment the hopes expressed in the Master Plan.

In a few weeks the ground will be broken for the new gymnasium-auditorium-music building complex. (By the way, we still need \$75,000 to complete this project.) After that we look forward to the Science, Health, and Services building. Then a beautiful sanctuary to the glory of God will grace the lovely campus.

No one but an administrator of the school can feel the thrill it is to write about the hopes and future plans of the College. One great hitch bothers us. Where are our youth? All the plans, and all the buildings, and all the efforts put forth by a fine faculty and staff are meaningless unless we have our youth - youth who love God, want to enter God's service, to help finish

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TALKING TOGETHER

Unopened Letters

One of our workers told of an experience that happened to him while he was serving in the army. On a particular day he had been unusually fortunate for he had received three letters when the mail was distributed. At once he noticed that one of the letters was from his wife. He tore open the envelope quickly and began to read the precious message that it contained.

As he read he subconsciously tossed the opened envelope into the fireplace before which he stood warming himself. At least that is what he thought he had done. A few moments later he realized that what he had actually done was throw into the fire one of the unopened letters. A great feeling of loss and consternation swept over him. What message had the letter contained? Who had it been from? He couldn't remember any characteristic markings. Had it been some official document? Was it the answer to an inquiry that he had made?

There was no way to find the answer to those questions. All that remained of the letter was some flaky ashes in the open fireplace; its message was unread, thus unheeded. Perhaps the most annoying factor was that there was no one to blame for the unfortunate happening but himself.

I reflected on the feelings that one might have in a similar experience. If one had never received the letter his feelings would have been different, but it had come to his hands and he had destroyed it without even reading it. It was his own personal neglect.

And then I thought of God's Letter to me — the Holy Bible. Its message was faithfully recorded by patriarchs, prophets, kings, and apostles. Its writings were preserved throughout the centuries by thousands, some of whom gave their lives that I might have the inspiration and guidance of its divine instructions. It has been translated into a language that I can understand. It has been printed so that my eyes can easily read its message. I have purchased it with my own money, or received it as a gift from a friend. It lays on my table daily, but do I read its message so that my life can be edified by its truth-filled pages?

In some homes, and in the busy lives of some believers, institutional workers, and even ministers, the Bible lies day after day on that table unopened. For all the practical use that it might be rendering to the needy heart it might as well have been burned in the open flames. But, thank God, it has not been burned. It is still there within your reach ready to give life and comfort, knowledge, and direction that will move you heavenward.

Don't allow the Bible to remain unopened, not for a single day. It contains just the help that you need.

A. C. Webster

BAWCHRYEH CHURCH DEDICATED

Salim Japas

The new Bawchryeh Church at the foot of the Sabtiyeh Hill below the Middle East Division offices, was dedicated on February 7, 1970. Most of the ordained ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist church residing in Lebanon were present, and delegations from the seven other churches attended, as well as numerous local leaders and friends from other religious groups, bringing attendants to near 400.

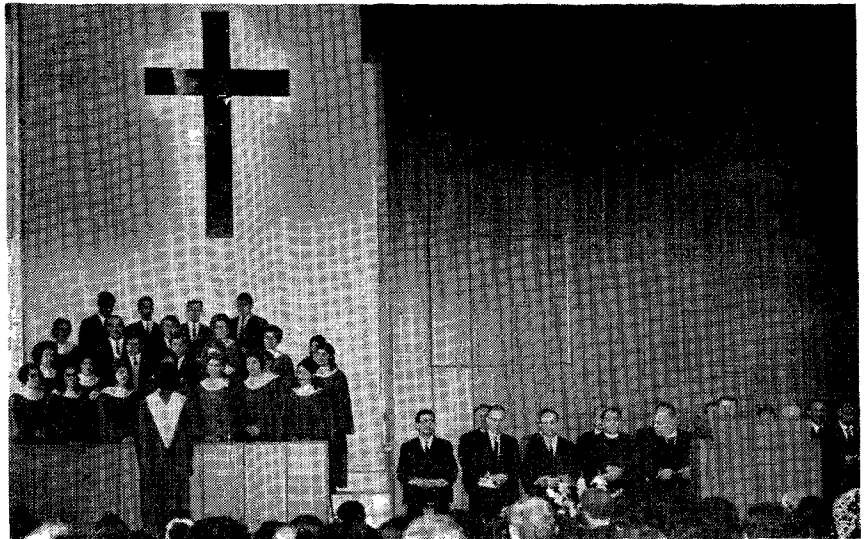
The dedication sermon was given by Pastor C. E. Guenther, Lay Activities Secretary of the General Conference.

Others taking part in the program were Pastor Chafic Srour, President of the Lebanon Section, Maurice Katrib, Editor of the Arabic HOPE magazine, Dean Ignatius Yacoub, of Middle East College, Reverend I. Dagher, President of the Supreme Council of Churches, Reverend F. Audi, Pastor of the National Protestant Churches of Beirut; and Reverend F. Bahnan, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Syria and Lebanon.

Chosen to lead out in the activities of the new church with a charter membership of 82, is Elder Salim Japas, Middle East Division evangelist, and working with him will be Elder Samir Shahine and Brother Shahada Halabi. Plans for the future well-being of the church include an evangelistic campaign with the first public meeting to be held March 11. The laymen have already been mobilized and their ready response points to a new day for the Adventist community in this section of Lebanon.



Mrs. Marlene Gilleroth proudly plays the Baby-grand piano for which she solicited the funds with her well-known enthusiasm. The piano was used for the first time at the dedication of the Bawchryeh Church. Not only was this piano secured, but another was purchased at the same time for the children's room in the lower floor. It is hoped that this expression of love on the part of Mrs. Gilleroth will continue to inspire the new congregation to greater deeds of sacrifice for the Work of God.



Interior of New Bawchryeh Church - Mrs. Mary Yacoub directing the Arabic Choir during dedication service.

* HISTORY OF BAWCHRYEH CHURCH

Ignatius Yacoub

It all began in the fall of 1954 when a group of young people from Middle East College under the leadership of Miss Edith Davis decided to begin a pathfinder Club for the youth in the Assyrian Section at the bottom of the hill. The Pathfinder children who joined the club enjoyed their nature activities, hobbies such as glass painting and basketry as well as marching, rhythm band, singing, and Bible stories. Soon the interest in the club grew and more help was needed so the Master Guides from the College M.V. Society joined them.

From the Bible stories there developed a definite interest in studying the Bible. Many questions were asked and the parents joined their children in studying the Bible. Very soon this interest developed into a Branch Sabbath School. Therefore, the group rented a room in that area and the Lebanon Section paid for the rent while the college Ministerial Seminar cared for various duties and other expenses. Programs continued to be organized and held in the Assyrian Section until September of 1956.

In October 1956, the Branch Sabbath School was moved to the newly built Middle East Elementary School building and continued to be held in the afternoon. In the same year the Religion department of the College purchased the portable organ which was used by the group.

In October 1957, the Branch Sabbath School was turned into a regular Sabbath School and Church Services were held. Miss Edith Davis was in charge of the Sabbath School, and the Ministerial Seminar was in charge of the Church Service. This became a mutual blessing both in the spiritual upbuilding of those who attended and the training received by those who took part. Meanwhile the pathfinder Club continued its excellent activities.

In 1958 both Church Services and the Sabbath School were changed to meet in the mornings, thus community members began to attend more regularly because of its greater convenience.

In 1961 the college chapel was the meeting place of this group. Two church services were held every week. The early morning Service was in English, followed by Sabbath School in Arabic and English. Then at 11:00 A.M. the Arabic Service met.

The Arabic Services were moved to the Worship Room of the Men's Dormitory in January, 1965, and became a section of the main College Park Church with Pastor Samir Shahin as the associate pastor in charge of the Arabic speaking group. It remained there until January 17, 1970, and had its own officers and activities.

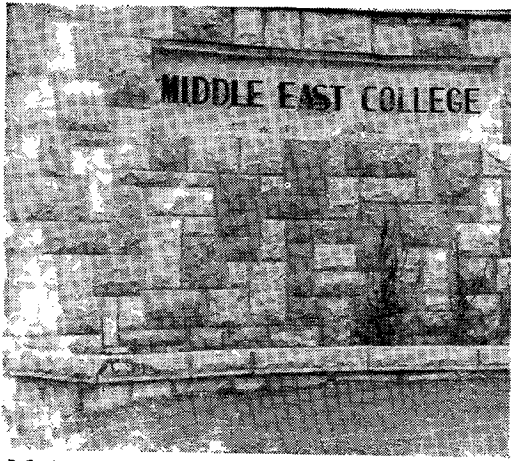
On January 17, 1970 the New Bawchryeh Church was completed and organized and thus the Arabic Section of the college Park Church moved to the newly erected edifice.

To Pastor Shahin can be attributed much of the hard work in building a small group into the church body that now is pastored by Elder Salim Japas.

May God bless this new church and those who are entrusted with its leadership to minister unto men, and make it a means to win souls.

**Given at the Church Dedication, February 7, 1970*

MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE

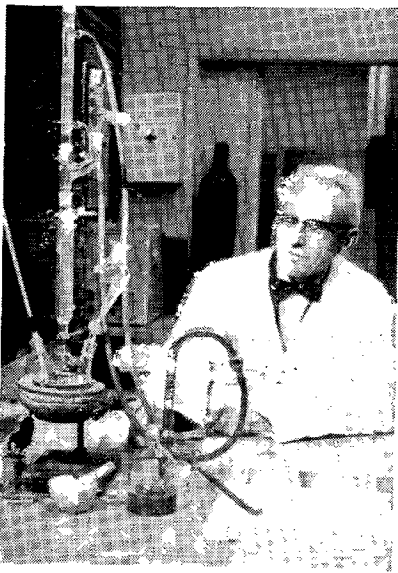


M. E. C., The Gateway

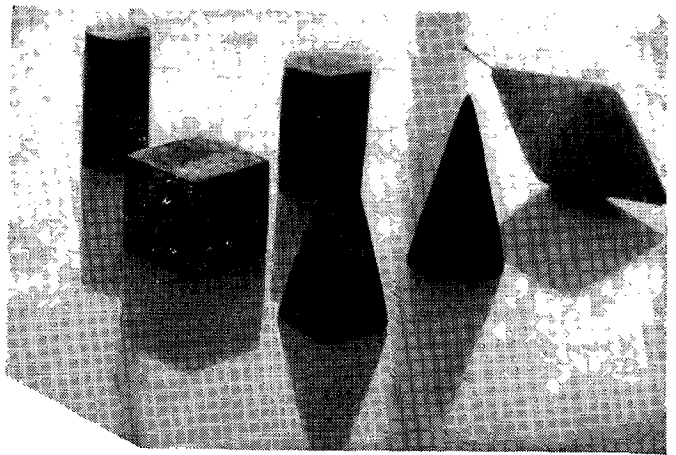
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Biology

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Thirty years



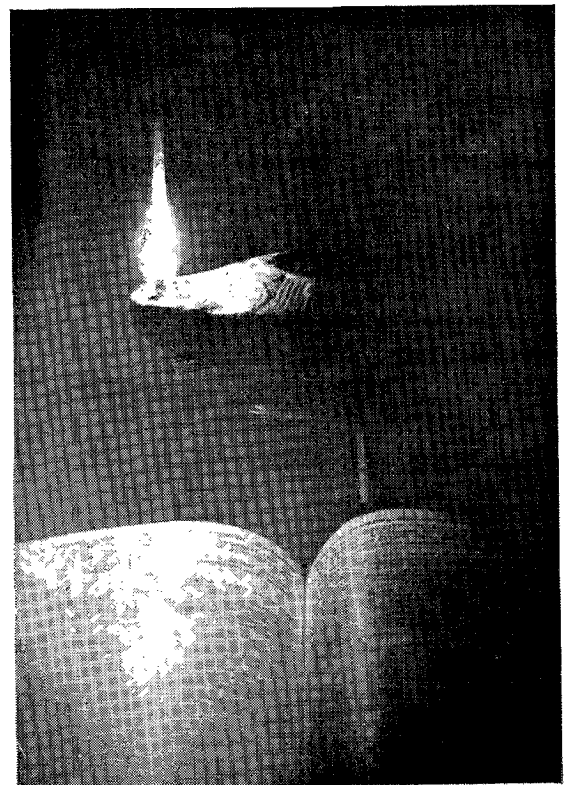
Band and Choir



Social Studies - Behavioural Sciences



Organ and Piano



Theology - Religion

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Aikasi, Ayazpassa, Taksim, Istanbul (Phone: 49-14-40).

"DORCAS" ACTIVE IN TURKEY

The Dorcas Society of the Istanbul Church, under the very capable leadership of Miss Siranoush Chorbajian, has been working very diligently during the past months. The latter part of December found them preparing a Christmas program for the church and community—the children's choir presented several plays and the Dorcas ladies made aprons, pajamas, etc. to sell.

At the time of the presentation the second floor of the church was packed with visitors; the entire program was a success as the juniors presented "The Challenge of the Cross." During the intermission all the articles that had been prepared were sold, making a net gain, from the program and the sale, of L. L. 487.54.

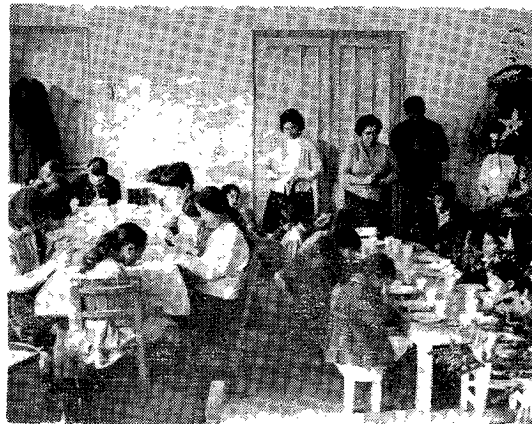
This was only a beginning—the following week the Dorcas brought in 40 children from very poor families and some orphans also and served them a very nutritious meal. For some this was the first time in their young lives to see enough food on the table. They all had a happy day with a delicious meal and dessert as well as presents to take home with them.

In November Elder Manuk Benzatyan visited the village of Amasya in the interior of Turkey. There were almost fifty Armenian families and every evening he held services in one of the homes. Let us pray that with the Lord's blessings the seeds sown may find rich soil and give a bountiful harvest.

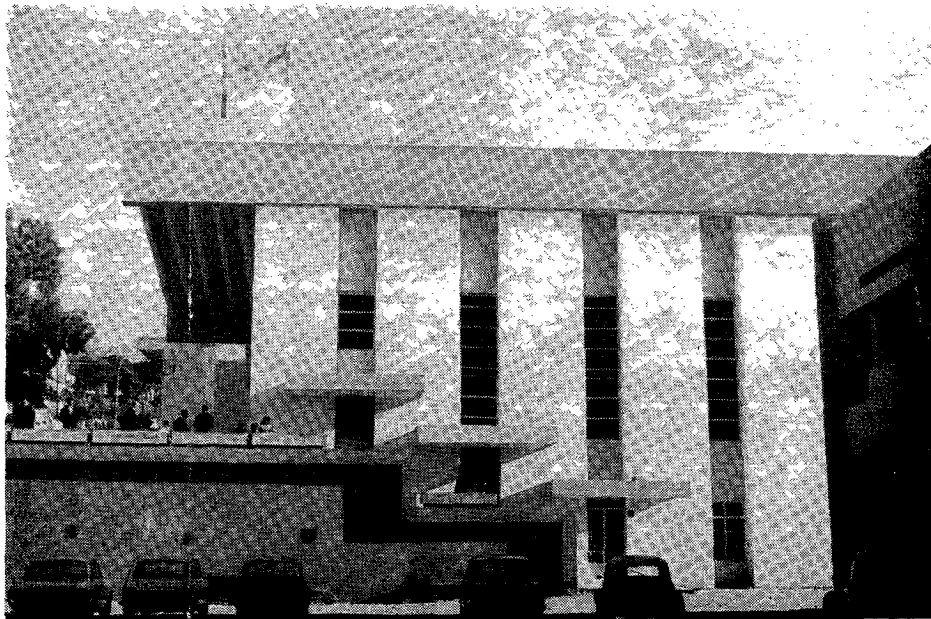
— Anahid Benzatyan



Dr. Grant Macaulay, Loma Linda University representative teaching this year at Middle East College, enjoys a joke with three of the college students.



Giving thanks before the "Little Banquet" offered by the Istanbul Dorcas Society.



The new Bawchryeh Church as seen from the playground and parking lot of the Middle East Secondary School.



The Harold N. Sheffield, M. D. family, (Left to right—Gail, Mother Mildred, Marcus, Dr., and JoAnne. Dr. Sheffield comes to the Middle East Division as Medical Secretary from the Benghazi Hospital.



James A. Aikman, wife Dorothy, Valerie and Billy, arrived January 14. Brother Aikman comes to his new work as manager of Middle East Press from "Faith for Today."



Ernest L. Runge, wife Marion, Kathy, Vicky, and Pamela. Brother Runge is joining the Middle East College family replacing Lloyd Nolin in the department of maintenance — most important in keeping everyone happy!

KOLTAS WELCOME SON

February 4, 1970 was a great day for Nadie and Hayat Kolta who welcomed their firstborn, a boy, in Benghazi, Libya.

TWO CHURCHES ORGANIZED IN LEBANON

January 10 and 17, 1970 were historical days for the Lebanon Section. Two churches were organized in Aramoun and Bawchryeh, Beirut respectively.

In Aramoun Elder F. C. Webster, president of the Middle East Division, Chafic Srour, Minas Megurditchian, president and secretary-treasurer of the Lebanon Section, officiated in the ceremony. Elder Webster presented a fitting sermon explaining major doctrines and what it means to be a member of an organized Seventh-day Adventist church.

The new Bawchryeh church is at the foot of the Sebtyeh hill in the Middle East College orange grove. Taking part in this church organization, Jan. 17, were Elders Chafic Srour, Salim Japas, Kenneth L. Vine, Samir Shahine Shehada Halabi, and Ray L. Jacobs.

Elder Salim Japas is the responsible pastor at the Bawchryeh Church with Samir Shahine and Shehada Halabi as associate pastors. Elder Chafic Srour is in charge of the Aramoun Church. Our prayers should ascend for the success of these newly organized churches.

With these two additions the number of churches in the Lebanon Section goes up to eight.

— Chafic Srour

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the work here and serve Him eternally in the hereafter.

Currently 105 students are studying on the college level. Of these 60 are sons and daughters of the church. With our present staff we could take three times as many students without adding another staff member, but where are the Adventist youth desiring the only type of education they should receive?

Middle East College is a fine school for it is God's school. Send us your dedicated youth and we will give them the finest training we know how so that they can become fruitful servants of the Master. Middle East College is proud of its sons and daughters who are leading God's work to a successful conclusion, but they need your sons and daughters to join them.

—K. L. Vine

Iraqi Workers Suffer Accident

Elder Hilal Dose, president of the Iraq Section, his son, Basim Fargo, Secretary-Treasurer of the Section, Mrs. Selma Tooma, and Miss Fawzia Khalil directors of the Baghdad Dar El Salam Secondary and Elementary Schools, suffered a severe accident as they traveled from Baghdad to Beirut.

Shortly after they had crossed the border into Jordan, on Wednesday night, February 4, their car left the road and overturned, throwing Elder Dose and Brother Basim out of the car.

Fortunately the group was miraculously spared serious injuries, but it was necessary for Elder Dose and Brother Basim to be interned in the Palestine Hospital in Amman to be treated for back injuries. It is sincerely hoped that all will soon be able to return to their homes in Iraq.

IT CAN BE DONE

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Third, a true colporteur will look for souls just as earnestly and as lovingly as does the minister of the Gospel. Brother Ratib is not only looking for sales; he is searching for souls! He is also reaching out to the nearby villages holding Branch Sabbath Schools and inviting interested people to our church.

When the true Christian colporteur works, putting in full days of reaching out to carry the message to everyone within his reach, Heaven will commend his labors, workers and church members alike will respect him, and God will abundantly reward.

Oh, God of Harvest, send us more of these!

CLEMONS FAMILY LEAVE

On January 25, the Middle East Division reluctantly bade farewell to the W. J. Clemons family. Elder and Mrs. Clemons have endeared themselves to the people of the Middle East by their friendly and Christian spirit. Elder Clemons served for six and a half years, first as chaplain of the Benghazi Hospital and for the last four years as president of the Jordan Section. They will be living in Pierre, South Dakota where he has been invited to serve as a departmental secretary.

Benghazi Hospital Personnel Re-locations

When the Benghazi Adventist Hospital was nationalized on November 23, 1969, nearly fifty workers and family groups who had gone to Libya from other countries were suddenly faced with the necessity of leaving the hospital employ and "beginning again." One worker chose to remain at the hospital and serve in the employ of the government, and a few had already requested permanent returns to their homelands, or had received calls to other fields.

Efforts to re-locate the remainder proved successful in many cases. The General Conference contacted other world divisions and positions were found for thirteen workers, while places were found within the Middle East Division for an equal number. Efforts continue to locate those who remain.

Re-assignments Within the Division Territory

Habib Banna - Treasurer, Syria Section
 William Bradshaw - Cyprus, Contemplated Dental\Physical Therapy Unit
 Thomas B. Davis - Cyprus, Contemplated Dental\Physical Therapy Unit
 Aaron Dennis - Teacher, Beirut Overseas School & Maintenance
 Jon R. Green - President, Jordan Section
 Rafic Issa - Cashier, Division Office
 Nancy Johnson - Teacher, Overseas School in Cyprus
 Nadie Kolta - Benghazi, Assistant in Public Health Work
 Virginia Lamb - Middle East College, Director Dining Room
 Leon Thomassian - Lebanon Section, Accountant
 Harold N. Sheffield, M.D. - Middle East Division, Medical Secretary
 J. A. Sines, D.D.S. - Cyprus, Contemplated Dental\Physical Therapy Unit
 J. W. Whitehouse - Benghazi, Public Health Work
 Antar Yacoub - Egypt Section, Treasurer (Called Before Nationalization)

Appointments to Other Divisions

Far-Eastern Division

Joseph Johannes, M.D. - Saigon
 Dinah Quijada, Lab. Tech. - Youngberg Hospital, Singapore

Inter-American Division

Russell Nolin - Bella Vista Hospital, Puerto Rico

Northern European Division

Villardo Almonte - Ethiopia
 George N. Benson, M.D. - Ethiopial
 Lourdes Santa Elena - Ile-Ife, Adventist Hospital, Nigeria

Southern Asia Division

Trinidad de Guzman - Karachi Hospital
 Sally Kent, M. D. - Karachi Hospital
 Anne Meyer - Karachi Hospital (Following short furlough in USA)
 Erlinda Cabanilla - Karachi Hospital

Trans-Africa Division

Rae Anra Brown - Kanye Hospital, Botswana, Africa
 Christine Mwangi - Nairobi Clinic, Kenya
 Carmelia Coiro - Secretary, East African Union, Nairobi, Kenya

Furloughing or Permanently Returned Outside the M.E.D.

Luna Atil to Manila	Primo Guarin to Manila
Leona Blaker to U.S.	D. W. McConnell to U.S.
Debra Soon Cha Chang to Korea	Eliseo Oliverio to Manila
Helga Cho to Korea	Leroy Sauder to U.S.
Lucila Deles to Manila	W. D. Perry to U.S.
Dean Dietrich, M.D. to U.S.	John Strain to U.S.
	Emilia Tabo to Manila

Awaiting Definite Assignment

Hanna Abdel-Malek - Libya, working in nationalized hospital
 Bashir Aziz - Studying Middle East College
 Bishara Aziz - Jordan
 Ferial Kolta - Studying Middle East College
 Serpoubie Maksoudian - Lebanon
Munir Masloub - Lebanon
 Najla Michdesy - Syria
 Jirius Nimri - Jordan



Nathan Ratib

By Maurice Katrib

"The intelligent, God-fearing, truth-loving canvasser should be respected; for he occupies a position equal to that of the gospel minister." *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 15. A true colporteur who is a watchman and a messenger is respected by all. Heaven considers his work just as important as that of the minister.

However, there is an important difference between a colporteur and a minister. As the minister does his work the church sustains him by paying him his salary, whereas, the colporteur earns his living as he works and becomes a potent factor in bringing means to the treasury.

It is this type of work which is being done in Jordan by our only regular colporteur in that Section—Brother Nathan Ratib. For almost two years Brother Ratib has averaged LL 3,000.00 in sales of books and magazines every month.

Every year we hear colporteurs say, "I have covered my territory!" And when is it they say this? Sometimes after a week's work in a capital city! What Brother Ratib has done in the past two years proves three things. First, that the true consecrated colporteur "will not go hungry" as some say. He will earn his living and besides bring means into the treasury. Often the colporteur will make twice as much "money-wise" as the minister is making. Although this is not his goal, this is presently true of Brother Ratib.

Second, when the colporteur works conscientiously and with a missionary vision, he will see to it that he visits every home, shop, company, and school. What has been done in Amman by Brother Ratib should help our summer student colporteurs who complain that their territory is not enough or that it can be covered in one week.

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IT
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