

CHICAGO BANQUET HEARS NEW POLICY ANNOUNCED

At a banquet in Imperial Hall, 2409 N. Halsted street, Nov. 14, Assyrians of Chicago and Gary heard the announcement of the new World Policy made by the Patriarch Mar Shimun.

More than 350 attended the banquet, far more than had been expected. Honored guests were the Rev. D. L. Taylor, news editor of the Methodist Christian Advocate; Prof. Ralph A. Bowman, professor of Oriental Languages at the University of Chicago; Dr. Lucius Astley-Cocke, assistant religious editor of the Chicago Tribune; and the Rev. James M. Duncan, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Chicago.

Copies of LIGHT FROM THE EAST were distributed to the diners, who were the first ones to see the new publication.

In his address, the Patriarch carefully and methodically unfolded the steps he had taken in altering the policy pursued by the Assyrian nation and Church of the East for thirty-four years. He recounted the sacrifices made during this time, and the barren results. Then he told of meeting the envoys of the governments of the Middle East, and of the consequent new policy of cooperation developed. He also spoke of discussing the question with the State Department of the United States.

Following the Patriarch's address, the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president of the Patriarchal Council, outlined methods to be used in extending the paper, of which he is ex officio editor.

The Rev. S. D. Neesan, pastor of Mar Sargis church, Chicago, fulfilled admirably the duties of a toastmaster in a series of brief but brilliant talks.

The dinner was sponsored by the parish committee of Mar Sargis church, under the presidency of Gabriel Sargis.

WORLD COVERAGE FOR FIRST EDITION

LIGHT FROM THE EAST is being sent to all points in the United States where there are Assyrian churches and colonies, including New Britain, Conn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Flint, Mich.; Gary, Ind.; Turlock, California, besides, of course, Chicago.

Overseas, it is being sent to Beirut, Lebanon; Khabour, Syria; Baghdad, Iraq; Trichur, India; Rezaieh, Iran, and Teheran, Iran.

The first edition was of necessity an experimental issue, to notify all those interested that the paper is now being published. To support it, each community is asked to appoint or elect a committee of three; one to send news, one to get advertisements, and one to get subscriptions.

The Young People of the Church of the East are especially asked to help support the paper.

Get Constitution of Patriarchal Council

Much interest has been expressed in the Patriarchal Council, under whose auspices this paper is published.

It was formed in March, 1948, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. Its purpose is to assist the Patriarch of the Church of the East in carrying on his manifold duties.

A constitution was drafted, and after many revisions and consultations adopted and registered.

A copy of this constitution will be sent any person interested on receipt of ten cents to cover the cost of mailing.

Send to 6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago.

New Metropolitan for India, Bishops for Other Vacancies Soon to be Chosen

Choice and consecration of a Metropolitan for the Church of India will be among early results of the recent action taken by His Holiness, Mar Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East CXIX, in establishing friendly relations with the governments of Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Death of Metropolitan Mar Timotheus left the Church of India without episcopal supervision. In view of the past political situation of the Assyrians in the Middle East, difficulties in filling this vacancy have been considerable. These difficulties now have been removed, and His Holiness has been endeavoring to find a suitable person to be consecrated as Metropolitan.

The Patriarch hopes to meet soon in council with his brother bishops, and take necessary action for consecration not only of the Metropolitan but also of bishops for other vacant sees.

In the meantime the Church of India, under the able guidance of the Rev. Paulos Konikara, the administrator, is able to function without undue difficulties. The clergy and the faithful alike, full of love and zeal for the church of their forefathers, are striving to maintain the great progress made under the wise and efficient leadership of Mar Timotheus, whose sanctity and devotion to the service of His Master will remain a shining example in the annals of the Church of India.

EFFORTS TO END EXILE IN CYPRUS OF PATRIARCHAL FAMILY

The Patriarchal family, parents and relatives of Mar Eshai Shimun, have been exiled in Cyprus ever since 1933. They have been completely cut off from the Assyrians and unable to render any services to their people.

The Patriarch has been trying to get them admitted into the United States.

However, difficulties in the way are considerable, because of the existing immigration regulations. The family of Mar Shimun has not been put on a quota basis, as has been rumored among the Assyrians, for the reason that the American immigration regulations take into account the country of birth. Members of the Patriarchal family were born in many countries, because of the changing of boundaries resulting from the two world wars, as well as

of their constant, enforced movements from place to place.

Repeated conferences with the immigration authorities as well as the state department have offered some hope that these difficulties may be overcome.

In Cyprus there is no employment of any kind for these people, while in the United States they would have the right, like any other citizen, of freedom of opportunity to enjoy the fruit of the work of their own hands.

GROWING PUBLICITY

Articles on the Church of the East are appearing with increasing frequency in American periodicals. Among the latest was one in The Churchman, of New York, in its issue of Nov. 15.

Please see that the editor of your local paper gets a copy of this magazine. The more publicity is given to the cause, the more support will be obtained for it. Whenever anything appears in your local paper, send it in.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

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INC.**

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Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president
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PATRIARCH SOON TO RECEIVE U. S. CITIZENSHIP

His Holiness, the Patriarch Mar Shimun, is hoping to receive his United States citizenship very soon. He has sent in his final papers, which have been approved. All that is to come is his formal admission to the status of a U. S. citizen.

When that happens, the Patriarch will no longer be a British subject, subject to the rules and regulations of the Foreign Office, but will be, as he pledges, a "100% American Citizen."

This will give him the advantage of being a citizen of the greatest and most powerful country in the world. It will also give him the advantage of movement, enabling him to visit churches all over the world, just as St. Paul did, under his rights as a Roman citizen.

Ever since 1933, the Patriarch has been under the control of the British Foreign Office. He was prohibited from meeting the bishops of the church in Asia, and they were forbidden to come to him. Under these circumstances, the Church of the East languished.

With the new freedom of American citizenship, he hopes speedily to overcome all the obstacles that have

Why Mar Shimun Did Not Attend Lambeth Congress

It had been the intention of Mar Shimun to attend the Lambeth Conference in London last summer, and present the case of the Assyrian Christians to the Anglican bishops there assembled from all over the world.

Preliminary correspondence, however, convinced him that time and effort would be wasted. There was strong doubt among many as to whether discussion of the case of the Assyrian Christians would be allowed at Lambeth. Those who did think it might be discussed stated that even so, no action could be taken that would help the starving, suffering people.

Instead of going to Lambeth, and there pleading before the assembled bishops to intercede with their respective governments to intercede with the representatives of the governments of the Middle East to intercede with their home governments to take some action—a long and round-about method—the Patriarch decided on direct approach. He went himself to the envoys of these foreign governments, told them of his determination to seek peaceful relations between the Assyrians and their neighbors, and asked their help.

That this was the right, wise and statesmanlike act is proved by correspondence published in this issue.

Now the necessary thing is for all Assyrians, everywhere to back up the Patriarch.

Let there be no more whispering in dark corners. Out into the sunlight! Kum, Athuraya!

interfered with the recovery and growth of the Church throughout the world.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

September 5th, 1948
His Imperial Majesty,
The Shah of Iran,

News reaching us from Iran of the profound effect which your Majesty's visit has had for the Assyrian Christians in Azerbaijan pleases us greatly. As Patriarch of this ancient church and people, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to your imperial Majesty for your solicitous attitude and royal favour towards the Assyrians of Azerbaijan, who during the recent political upheaval in that part of your realm suffered various hardships.

It is our earnest prayer to the Almighty God that there will occur no such unhappy incidents in the future, and that the Assyrian Christians in Iran will, in accordance with the doctrine of their faith, and the centuries-long history of their forefathers in Iran, render all loyalty to your Majesty's person and to your government. We rejoice to hear of your Majesty's safe return.

MAR SHIMUN

by Grace, Catholicos
Patriarch of the East.

His Majesty's answer:

Sept. 19, 1948

In reply to your telegram, I am instructed by his Majesty to thank you sincerely for your good wishes.

Minister of Court M. DJEM
From Iranian Envoy in Washington

Sept. 8, 1948

His Holiness Mar Shimun XXIII

... I can assure you that I am a well wisher of the Assyrian people, and that they will always receive every assistance from the Iranian government, which desires the Assyrians to live in peace and happiness in their country. I am sure that with our combined understanding and co-operation, we shall be able to lend

a helping hand to these well-deserving people. F. Noury - Esfandiary.

IRANIAN EMBASSY

Washington, D.C.

Nov. 26, 1948

Your Holiness:

It is with pleasure that I received your letter of Nov. 19, and learned of the very successful banquet given in your honor by the Church of the East in Chicago. I was also glad to know that you had read the message to and from His Imperial Majesty the Shah.

My wishes for complete success in your continued efforts for peace and security for your people go with you always, and I am ever ready to assist you and the Assyrian people in any way possible.

I read with interest the paper "LIGHT FROM THE EAST," published by the Patriarchal Council. I believe that if this little paper covered the activities of the Assyrian people in their various communities throughout the United States and the East, it would enjoy great success. Many Assyrians would be able to keep in touch with each other through this medium.

Concerning your request for the names of the most prominent papers in Iran, I am happy to list them below, all of them being located in Teheran:

Ettalaat Iran
Mehr Iran Keyhan Atesh

I had been looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you long before this in Chicago, but owing to the illness of both my wife and myself, we have so far been unable to leave Washington. As soon as my wife is better, we shall take our leave and journey west through Chicago, at which time I hope to see you again.

Very sincerely yours,
F. NOURY-ESFANDIARY,
Minister and Charge
d'Affaires ad Interim

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL NEARS END OF FIRST YEAR

On January 13, 1948, the Patriarchal Theological School was opened at Tell Tamer, Syria. Thus by next month it will have completed its first year.

Twelve boys are enrolled, coming from many different towns and vil-



STUDENT BODY AT THE MADRASHA KOHAINA PATRIARCHETA,

SEATED: Rev. Yohannan Eshoo, Yonan Oraham.

STANDING: Hormizd Eshoo Kasha Toowana, of Tkhuma, Gawaya; Warda Breekha, of Goondicta; Emanuel Hormizd, of Mazraya; Aprim Kasha Elias, of Baz; William Gabriel, of Nahra, Jeboo; Guliad Yonadam, of Barwar Qudshanis; Isaac Mirza, of Mar Beshoo; Marogil Kasha Menzur, of Tyari; Kheo Yosep, of Tyari.

Three others have been added since this picture was taken.

lages. Kasisha Yohannan, the principal, formerly was priest of the parish of Mazaraya, Tkhuma, in Iraq. The church was named for Rabban Pithyun, a saintly monk.

Father Yohannan houses his pupils in buildings of his own, "Quba" or domes, built of sun-dried mud. They do their own house-work, washing their own clothes, and performing all the other necessary tasks.

The curriculum is rigorous. They study Aramaic, the history of the Church of the East, elementary theology, public speaking, grammar, arithmetic (using the Western numerals) the Arabic language, and English.

Eight hours a day are spent in these studies. Every day is started with morning prayer, and ended with evening prayer, in the liturgy of the Church of the East.

As assistant, Father Yohannan has Yonan Oraham, who studied in Beirut. He teaches Aramaic, English and Arabic.

The boys are in need of school supplies—books, paper, pencils, pens and ink.

They are working under pressure, it being the object of the school to graduate them as quickly as possible so that they will be able to start the work of building up again the once magnificent structure of their ancestral church.

It is hoped the oldest will be ready for ordination within 2 years—that is, three years from the time they started. They can be made deacons between the ages of 18 and 20.

Some will be assigned to Asia, but some, it is hoped, will be brought to the United States, to help in extending the Church here.

There is great need in India, where the Church of the East at the present time has a large number of adherents.

To support this school, and the other theological school soon to open in Urumia, the Patriarchal Pence has been devised. This plan is simple. Each family is asked to deposit one penny per person per meal in a coin box.

On the first Sunday in each month, the pence cans are to be brought to the parish church, the amount counted, and new cans given out. All sums thus collected are to be forwarded to the Patriarch, at 6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, for the theological school.

In each parish and community, a Pence Committee should be named, to have charge of distributing and collecting these offering boxes.

These Children Are Waiting For You



SCHOOL AT TELL TAMER, SYRIA. As soon as the Assyrians were located by the League of Nations in the Khabour River Valley of Syria in 1933, they started schools for their children, writing in sand for lack of paper. Will you help these, and the thousands of other Christian children of the Middle East, learn what they must know? Help the Patriarchal School Fund. Other schools will be started as soon as the means are supplied.

CHICAGO HEARS PLAN FOR GREAT NEW CHURCH

Plans for the building of a new church in Chicago were outlined by the Patriarch at a mass meeting of Assyrians in the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Kenmore and Ardmore Aves., Chicago, on the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 12.

This church, one of the most beautiful of the Episcopal edifices in the Chicago diocese, was placed at the disposal of His Holiness by the rector, the Rev. James M. Duncan, following the banquet of Nov. 14.

More than \$3,500 was pledged or paid. Plans are going forward to build a church in the traditional style of the Church of the East, which is unlike that of any other religious body in the world. It preserves the structure of the Temple in Jerusalem, with the Holy of Holies as the principal element.

Need for a new church has been felt by the Assyrian colony in Chicago for a long time. The present structure is inadequate, giving little room for parish activities. The location also is not favorable.

Despite this, the story of the little church is deeply moving. When Mar Timotheus, metropolitan of India, visited the United States in the middle twenties, he gathered together the members of the Church of the East in all American cities where he could find them.

In Chicago their first step was to purchase a frame building on the corner of Menominee and Orleans streets, on the near North Side.

With their own hands, the men scooped out the yellow sand from beneath the structure, and built a concrete basement. In this basement the Qurbana was celebrated, while a better structure was being built on the back of the lot.

This church is of yellow brick. It is on the inner side of the courtyard,

on Menominee street, and is built partly back beneath the dwelling. Its furnishings while meager, are strictly in accordance with the immemorial tradition of the Church of the East.

When plans get under way, it is hoped that other communities will be able to help the Chicago parish in building the new church, which will serve as a Patriarchal Cathedral.

To provide a place for it, five lots have been purchased and paid for, on Sheridan Road, where it turns west from the Outer Drive just south of Irving Park Road.

This location is among the most desirable in the city, since it faces one of the main thoroughfares, and is only a short distance from the magnificent thoroughfare which traverses the lake shore.

LIFE OF MAR SHIMUN

*Story of the Patriarch
of the East*

\$1.10 postpaid

Order of

**The Patriarchal Council,
Inc.**

6346 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago

UNLOCKING THE TREASURY OF THE SPIRIT

Among the greatest gifts brought by the Church of the East to Christians of the West is the limitless treasure of its ageless devotion, comprising the "Gazza d'Rukha," or "Treasury of the Spirit."

Sages and writers, poets and teachers unknown to the Lands of the Sunset abounded in the Church of the Sunrise. Chief among these are Aprim and Narsay.

Both lived in the days of the great Western controversies which gave rise to the Ecumenical Councils. Both were teachers, and both used their unrivalled skill in verse to proclaim the truths of the Word Made Flesh.

Few of the poems of either Aprim or Narsay have been translated. To make them familiar to English-speaking Christendom is the earnest wish of the Patriarch.

Those matchless poems form part of the education of every Christian child of the East. In the Second and Third Readers of the schools of that church, they take the place all too frequently taken in English text books by the senseless gabble of Mother Goose.

As part of his Christmas gift, the Patriarch Mar Shimun has made a translation of one of Narsay's most beautiful poems; "THE DAY OF OUR LORD," printed herewith.

LIFE OF NARSAY, "HARP OF THE SPIRIT"

Narsay, "Kinnara d'Rukha," or "Harp of the Spirit," was born in the year 430 in the village of Ain Dulbe, in the district of Duhak, near Mosul, in the ancient diocese of Nuhadra.

He went to school in Urhai (Edessa) where he studied and taught for 20 years. When that school was destroyed by the Roman Emperor Zeno the Isaurian, Narsay, along with the body of scholars, fled to

Nisibis. There he established a great school of science and learning whose renown spread throughout the world. Students came from all lands to the University of Nisibis. He was head of that great college for 50 years, and died in 507.

Narsay wrote a commentary on the Old and New Testaments, a Book of the Interpretation of the Sacraments, and many sermons, prayers and hymns. He composed in poetry 365 "chapters" (mimray) of which only 25 or 30 have been saved.

His poems are marked with great richness of language, beauty of imagery, and profound theological learning. One of his hymns sung every Sunday in the Aramaic liturgy is "Todi l' Tawa—"Confess to the Good"—that is, God.

OUT OF THE HELLBOX

by
Irwin St. John Tucker

\$2.10 postpaid

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THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL, Inc.

6346 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

Pamphlet setting forth the amazing
story of the Patriarchal Church
of the East

10 cents a copy—\$1 per dozen
Send for a dozen

THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL, Inc.

6346 N. Sheridan Road

THE DAY OF OUR LORD

By Mar Narsay

New tidings did Gabriel sow in the ears of Mary;
A new, uncustomary conception the Vigilant One declared.
The pure Virgin bore the fruit which the Voice sowed,
And the Spirit spoke in the harp of her soul the voice of praise.
With the voice of thanksgiving she rendered the price of the new birth;
"Blessed is He who chose an abode for His love within my limbs!
Worthy of praise from every mouth is the Maker of All,
Who through my humility willed to exalt the earth of Adam."

In the first month, Gabriel sowed the tidings of conception in her ears,
And the blade of the Bread of Life sprouted in the ninth.
In March he grafted the power of life into the stem of her body,
And in December she bore that which made all rejoice.
In the beginning the earth conceived Adam, the First-born;
In her was composed the second Adam, in the earth of her body.
One Spiritual was the harbinger of His conception,
And on the day of His birth, many came down and gave praise.

The Vigilant One had given Mary a sign in confirmation of her conception;
Fruit had blossomed in the barren body that had faded with age.
"Lo, even Elizabeth has conceived, when she did not expect,
And this is the sixth month of her conception.
The Messenger who is to go before the King is conceived without expectation.
And the King is conceived, contrary to natural law, without marriage."

Mary bore great wealth in her limbs as she journeyed to know the words
of the Vigilant One by experience.
The Ship that bore great wealth went into the house of the poor,
And the barren womb all of a sudden became wealthy with the sound
of her words.
The Mother of the King gave "Peace!" to the mother of the Servant,
And the infant in the womb began to rejoice in the presence of his Lord.

In the village of David, the promise made to David was fulfilled,
And the course of the Prophecy finally rested in Bethlehem.
Pains compelled the Ship that bore the greatest wealth,
And it opened its treasures before the Spirituals and the Temporals
(i.e. before angels and men.)

The secret sign (God's will) gathered together the Heavenly Hosts,
And the Vigilant Ones went down to proclaim hope to them that were
without hope.
The Voice was like that of a trumpet, and announced to the earth;
"Arise, ye that are immersed in thoughts of sin, discard the weight
of sin and of iniquity!"

"Hope unto thee" shouted the Spirituals and Temporals;
"Come and take freely of the bond of your debts, by the Child that
has shone forth."
Unto the Shepherds they revealed the secret that was to appease all,
And taught the plain truth in the Babe and his Mother.

Long History of the Church of India Glorious Chapter in Christian Annals

By Rev. S. D. Neesan
Chicago

The history of the Church of India forms a magnificent chapter in the story of the Church of the East.

The visit to India of Mar Toma Shlikha (St. Thomas the Apostle) is a historic fact. After converting the city of Edessa to belief in the Lord Jesus, and preaching in the cities of Arbil (Arbela) and Seleucia Ctesiphon, he went to India.

A historian of the Church of the East of the fourth century, named Mshikha Skha—"Christ has conquered"—expressed epigrammatically his work there in saying that St. Thaddeus, known in the East as Mar Addai, travelled so far into Persia that he "caught the scent of St. Thomas in India." Saying this, Mshikha Skha was quoting authorities older than himself.

Ever since then, the Church of India has existed as an integral part of the Mother Church of the East.

The Patriarchal See originally was in the twin cities of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, the ancient Babylon, from which city St. Peter (Mar Petros) wrote his epistles.

The part played by the Church of India in the great missionary enterprise, its roll of martyrs and confessors, and its eminence in the field of learning, are worthy of its apostolic founder and martyr.

Despite successive persecutions suffered in its long history, the Church of India has persisted in keeping alive the spirit and the teaching of its Master, in their apostolic purity. Its success was so great that at one time four kingdoms of South India, along with their rulers, were Christian. Magnificent churches and other religious institutions are still to be found in India.

The influence of Christianity was so great that it permeated even the Buddhist religion. This is seen especially in the Mahayana, or "greater faith," branch of the Buddhists.

The greatest blow dealt the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East in India came not from Hindu or Moslem, but from professed fellow Christians.

During the Portuguese domination of South India, Francis Xavier, Roman Catholic missionary now hailed as a saint, applied the methods of the Inquisition to induce the clergy and faithful of the Church of the East to accept the Roman faith and rule.

Nevertheless, the Church of India, though greatly reduced in numbers as the result of these persecutions, still holds its rightful position in the history of that great sub-continent.

Today, with the dawn of the new era for India after centuries of subjugation, the Church of India is presented with a magnificent opportunity.

This is the Church of the Indians, by the Indians, and for the Indians. It is the church in which exists neither caste nor racial superiority.

It is the church which never has relied on the scepter of Caesar in the propagation of the gospel of peace and love.

It is the church that teaches "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

It is the Church of the East!