



ܠܘܨܘܬܐ ܕܡܝܢ ܡܘܨܘܬܐ

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1949

Vol. 1

Published Monthly by The Patriarchal Council, Inc.
6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago 20

No. 4

PENCE BRINGS IN \$425 FOR SCHOOLS FROM 4 PARISHES

Use of the Patriarchal Pence cans to provide support for the new schools in the Middle East is growing rapidly, with astonishing results.

New Britain turned in \$100 as its first harvest.

In the first returns from Chicago, fifty-one cans were given out, and 29 returned. In them was \$100.90, an average of about \$3.50 per can. Largest return was made by Babyjan Kurban, who was partly paralyzed. His offering for the month was \$9.99. Mr. Kurban died shortly afterward. May God's light shine upon him.

Gary also has been generous, resulting in \$350 from the three churches of New Britain, Gary and Chicago.

Turlock has just sent in \$72.40, a total of nearly \$425.

Only a small proportion of the Assyrian families in this country has been reached. The Patriarchal Pence provides the simplest and most effective way of raising money for this greatly needed cause, the support of schools in the Middle East.

MARBLE CROSS FROM IRAN IN FIREPLACE OF EDITOR'S CHURCH



The Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker beside the fireplace in St. Stephen's Church, Chicago. Above it is a marble cross from Tehran, Iran, sent by British Consul Simmons. The cross is said to have been made from the columns of the palace of a former Shah.

Khabour Settlers Find Syrian Rule Just

By THE REV. BENJAMIN ODISHOO
Gary, Ind.

Among the many recent communications received by His Holiness, the Patriarch of the East, who is anxious to know the truth concerning the Brazilian "mirage", are two letters from Malik David Eshai of Tkhuma and Yonadam Malik Mirkhail, also of Tkhuma.

Both expressed their undying loyalty and devotion to His Holiness, and told their appreciation for the great work he has done, and the sacrifices he has made in the cause of his people.

Both of them realize that talk of colonization in Brazil is mere propaganda on the part of three men, namely Loco Badawi, Daniel Malik Ismail, and Leon Dinkha. They realize these men are being used by influential enemies who have long sought the destruction of the Church of the East, the most ancient Church in Christendom.

But the most striking element in these two letters, and others who, like them, speak the truth, are the expressions of gratitude to the Syrian Government for the fairness and justice of its dealings with the Assyrians on the Khabour.

Yonadam Malik Mirkhail says:

"The Syrian Government makes no distinctions between Moslem and Christian. We are all treated equally. Our political condition is far better under the Republic of Syria than it was under the French."

This is confirmed by Yacob Malik Ismail of Upper Tyari, the Rev. Kashisha Yokhanan Eshoo, the Rev. Kashisha Ilias of Baz, and many others.

The only exception to this report is the following statement by Loco S. Badawi, who says:

"Although the verbal sympathy of the government toward us is not bad, politically it is doing everything in its power that we may never be contented with our condition, so that very soon no trace of us will be found on the River Khabour."

This letter of Loco Badawi is dated Feb. 1, 1947.

The statements to the contrary, quoted above, go to show that Loco has not been speaking the truth. They show that he was trying hard to make a case for himself in advance of his diabolical Brazil scheme, by which he is trying to rob the poor Assyrians of their last penny, and to sell them into everlasting slavery.

The fears of the Assyrians on the Khabour in regard to this man's intentions, and those of his colleague and evil genius, Yusuf Malek, are therefore well founded.

Just Published In Arabic and English

THE CALIPH'S CHARTER TO THE NESTORIAN PATRIARCH

A forgotten document of tremendous importance to the history
of the Church of the East.

Order of
THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL
6346 N. Sheridan Road
Price 50 cents.

Paper Delights Khabour Valley Settlements

Kashisha Yohanan, principal of the Theological School at Tell Tamer, writes:

On Jan. 25 I sent a letter to your Holiness. The same evening the paper, LIGHT FROM THE EAST, came. I was delighted. On the morning of the 26th I sent it by my students to all the settlements on the Khabour and sent them to take to all the different villages Light from the East. They were all greatly pleased.

Another lot of them I sent to Kamishly. Some I sent by mail to Iraq. I do not have the addresses in Iran, but will send some later. I do not know whether we should send some to our people in Russia, and also those in Greece, because we have Assyrians there too.

It is necessary that LIGHT FROM THE EAST should reach into the hands of every Assyrian throughout the world, so that they may all rejoice.

It is my earnest prayer that your shining person may be the cause that the light from heaven may shine throughout the East. "Not with might, nor with power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

May the Master of Peace give peace of heart to every man, through the prayers of your Holiness, who is the bright Star from the East, so that from the West may shine the light of life toward the East, which was the cradle of light.

"Arise and shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord will rise upon thee."

There is no doubt that they who ask will receive, and he who seeks will find, and to him who knocks, it shall be opened. These are the words of our Lord. The light shone in darkness, and unto the true of heart it brought joy.

"Rejoice, oh ye righteous, in the Lord, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

"Heaviness may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.

"Now therefore I will rise, saith the Lord, and will publish my salvation unto the heathen."

It is a cause of great joy that a Patriarchal School of Theology is to be established in Iran. This will be a spiritual source from which light will flow through the East, in the language of the people of the East. It will be the salt of the earth, and the leaven to preserve the three measures of flour.

Let us therefore praise God that He has given to us earthly ones to share with the spiritual ones, so that we may at all times give "holy unto his name.

We are very glad that our brother Kashisha Shaul is in the service of your Holiness and fulfilling his priestly duties at the church in Chicago. We rejoice greatly that our honorable friend, Abuna Irwin St. John Tucker, voluntarily has taken upon himself the editorship of LIGHT FROM THE EAST. May God bless him, and make him a help to our ancient church and people.

Blessed is every Assyrian who helps in the service of our people, with the Patriarch, through LIGHT FROM THE EAST. May the Holy Spirit rule in their hearts with great blessings that cannot be spoken, so that all the Assyrians in the U. S. A. may be bound together with a golden chain of love. It is the duty of every one of them to be understanding, for intrigues and corruption have come from the Evil One, and should be broken off from our golden chain.

Your unworthy servant,

Kashisha Yohanan,
Principal of Patriarchal School
of Theology

Lebanon Assyrians Pledge Loyalty to Death

To the Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 25, 1949.

Father of Fathers, Shepherd of Shepherds,
Giver of Crowns and presenter of Pastoral Staffs,
Our Lord, Eshai Shimun, Catholicos Patriarch of the East:
Bless, O My Lord!

Holy Father:—

We, the sheep of your pasture who dwell in this blessed city of Beirut, and those who live among the villages of Lebanon, are together with one accord at this feast of the Nativity and of the Epiphany of Our Lord, and the New Year. May you, with the strength of Our Lord God, celebrate every year in joy and health, and may you be blessed with a long and successful life, so that your Holiness may be a sign of peace and of hope to all people.

Our earnest prayer is that the Lord may again bring together your lost sheep, scattered throughout the world as sojourners, and that you will again hear the united voice of the children of your nation, and your light may shine among the Assyrian people as the head and leader of our nation.

We received the letter written by Kashisha Shaul at your Holiness' order, dated Nov. 26. We read it diligently, and understood. But we are grieved that you have been hearing, from letters being written to that country by false men, that the Assyrians of Lebanon are not loyal to your Holiness and to your good and holy authority.

This is of course far from the truth. To the contrary, we stand on the platform of truth and righteousness, which is the platform of Your Holiness. And we are willing to fulfill any command that comes from your holy mouth, even if it means death.

It may be known to your Holiness that we, along with Malik Andreos, are united with the rest of the sons of our nation in Lebanon. Therefore all that is being written from here to the contrary emanates from dishonest and false men. We hope your Holiness will never listen to or believe these men.

We conclude this letter with our hope for your Holiness and our love for you.

Your loving and faithful children from the heart;

MALIKS AND CHIEFS

Malik Andreos
Malik Kambar
Suto Mashurda
Malik Mirkhail Aziznaya
Elias Neesan of Baz
Lawando Hasado
Yokhanan Moshey of Tkhuma
Nwiya Dawid Diko
Asliwo Argabaya
(Name Undecipherable)
Barcham Gawo Kunaya
Paulos Yohanan
Yohanan Ammiro
Patros Dawid
Oraham Beit Bayto

KASHISHAS

K. Mando Eshoo
K. Kako Beth Azo
K. Dashto Hummi

Khoshaba Wazira of Tal
Khoshaba Mukdusi

Shamasha Matlub Kando Shlemon
Shamasha Ethniel OOhana Izo
Shamasha Petros

ACTIVITIES OF YUSUF MALEK DANGEROUS TO ALL ASSYRIANS

The adventurous history of Yusuf Malek, a Chaldaean Christian originally from Bagdad, now living in Beirut, Lebanon, is approaching the danger point.

His latest exploit has been to use the name of the Assyrian people in his personal gamble with the Kurdish question.

Malek is working with the Kurdish movement for an independent Kurdistan.

It is well known that this movement is communist sponsored.

It affects all three of the Middle Eastern countries where the Assyrians now live as loyal and contented citizens, namely, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

The activities of this man are dangerous and most detrimental to the interests of the Assyrians in all these countries. It should therefore be known that all negotiations this man might have carried on with the Kurds have been on his own account, and not with the knowledge or by the authority of the Patriarch of the East, or of any responsible Assyrian organization or person.

The Kurds number about five million. They form an important element in the population of Iran, Iraq and Syria. They form a most important key, both militarily and strategically, to the oil lands and natural wealth of the Middle East.

In a letter to President Durna of the Assyrian National Federation, on May 27, 1947, Yusuf Malek said:

"The Kurds are making their preparations to send a delegation to the United Nations Organization, and they have asked me to accompany them, at their cost. They would require me to act as liaison officer between them on the one hand, and His Beatitude Mar Shimun and the Federation, on the other, to obtain their moral support for the liberty of Kurdistan."

The Patriarch emphatically refused to have anything to do with the matter.

In a letter to the Patriarch dated Jan. 19, 1949, Durna said: "As to the activities of Yusuf Malek with the Kurds, I can speak for myself and with knowledge and authority for the Federation, that we wholeheartedly agree with your Holiness that nothing should be done by the Federation which might be construed or implied to mean that the Federation is taking any part in the Kurdish political aspirations, particularly in view of the friendly and cordial relations which have developed between Your Holiness, the Assyrians and the Middle Eastern Governments, which we all cherish.

"We cannot afford to permit the Federation to be held accountable for the misdeeds or ill conduct of individuals who may be officers of or correspondents of the Federation, when they act of their own accord, just because they happen to be associated with the Federation.

"When we learned that Yusuf Malek was in touch with the Kurdish chiefs, or vice versa, who desired him to accompany their delegation to America, this was brought to your attention, and the Federation abided by the decision of Your Holiness in the matter and wrote Yusuf accordingly. This is all the Federation knows about the subject."

It is greatly to be deplored that there are numbers of misguided Assyrians who are entangled with Yusuf Malek. To all such the warning should be given:

"Abide by the decision of the Patriarch, who knows the facts."

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

BY ELIZABETH ESSA,
615 So. 99 Highway, Modesto, Calif.

The Rev. S. D. Neesan, of Chicago, flew to California to conduct the funeral of Mr. Daniel Yohanan, of Mawana, who passed away the last week in January.

At San Francisco he was met by K. E. DeKelaita and Joash Paul, who drove him to Turlock.

Saturday, Jan. 29, the funeral was conducted in the new building of the Church of the East. Five hundred attended. Interment at the Turlock cemetery was followed by a dinner given by the children of Mr. Yohanan.

Sunday, Jan. 30, Father Neesan celebrated the Qurbana D'Onneedy (offering on behalf of the dead) in memory of Mr. Yohanan. There were many partakers of the Holy Sacrament. Services were held again Sunday evening.

Sunday, Feb. 6, Father Neesan conducted services, and spoke to the Sunday School classes. During the week he visited the members of the Church of the East, and all his numerous friends. Great regret was expressed at his departure for Chicago.

Church Committee

The Committee of the Church of the East met Monday, Feb. 7th, at the church, to discuss and prepare a Youth Organization and Sunday School classes for the children. Joash DeKeleita, chairman of the committee, presided.

A census of all church members and their families is being taken, to be kept on file.

It was voted to express deepest thanks, with sincerest appreciation, to His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, for sending the Rev. Saul D. Neesan to Turlock.

The Committee voted thanks to Mrs. Pearl Warda of Chicago, for the beautiful candlesticks she donated to the church.

Mark N. Essa was appointed supervisor of the Youth Organization and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Mrs. Elizabeth Essa was appointed reporter for LIGHT FROM THE EAST for Turlock and vicinity.

ACE ORGANIZED

Monday evening, Feb. 7, a gathering was held at the home of Miss Anna Mae Simon, of Ceres, to discuss reorganizing the Youth Organization of the Assyrian Church of the East, and to arrange for future gatherings.

A Talent Show was planned, and a series of "get-together" meetings was outlined.

As its dominant purpose, the A. C. E. organization adopted the completion of the beautiful new church, and the obtaining of a new spiritual leader.

The following were present:

Misses Anna Mae Simon, Mary Warda, Eva and Margaret Oshana, Marian Pera, Marie Thomas, Mrs. Elizabeth Essa, and Messrs. Andy Yonan, Joe Azoo, Joe Yonan, Mark Essa.

NOTE

This issue is a double number, February-March, to bring the time of publication up to the beginning of the month instead of at the end. You will receive the same number of copies per year.

CHURCH NEWS FROM CONNECTICUT

By JACK P. BABA

386 So. Quaker Lane, W. Hartford 6, Conn.

At the annual meeting of St. Thomas parish of the Church of the East, new Britain, Conn., held on Jan. 22 at the parish house under the presidency of President Jonathan Benjamin, the following were elected:

President, Albert Sargis.
Vice President, Samuel Sargis.
Secretary, Shamasha Peter Yonan.
Assistant Secretary, Miss Lucy Esmail.

Treasurer, Joseph Nimrod.
Assistant Treasurer, Jack K. Baba.
Robert Marks, Frank Yonan and Elizabeth Yonan were elected trustees.

YOUTH ORGANIZATION

The St. Thomas Youth Organization present as their new officers:
President, Miss Lucy Esmail.
Vice President, Miss Agnes Sargis.
Secretary, George D. Yonan.
Treasurer, Miss Zarifa George.

The following committee was chosen from the Youth Organization to represent LIGHT FROM THE EAST:

Sales staff, Samuel Sargis, Albert Sargis.
Co-reporters, Samuel Sargis, Jack P. Baba.

LADIES' SEWING CIRCLE

The Ladies' Sewing Circle present as their officers:
President, Mrs. Joseph Nimrod.
Secretary, Mrs. Peter Yonan.
Treasurer, Mrs. David Sargis.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Alavardy.

BAPTISM

On Feb. 13 the Rev. Sargis Benjamin performed the rite of baptism for Frank Harry Yonan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yonan, of Hartford, Conn., at St. Thomas Church.

DEATH

On Feb. 7 Mrs. Neggie Benjamin passed away, after a long illness.

BABAJAN KURBAN

Babajan Kurban, of 510 W. Arm-itage Ave., Chicago, died Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 7:15 p. m. The funeral was held Saturday, Feb. 25, at Olivet Institute by the Rev. S. D. Neesan, assisted by the Rev. Benjamin Odishoo, of Gary, Ind., and Deacon Joseph Hosanna. Interment was in Elmwood Memorial Cemetery.

Babajan Kurban was born in Dizatakya Rizaieh, Iran. As a young man he went to Russia, where he took up house painting as a trade, and there he married Hanna Mooshey.

In 1913 he came to the United States, whither his wife soon followed him. They have lived in Chicago ever since.

He is survived by his widow, two sons, Samuel and Joseph, and three daughters: Nancy Odishoo, of Gary, In., Margaret Johnson and Helen Gabrielo, both of Chicago. He leaves five grandchildren.

O Mary, who didst bear the medicine of life to the children of Adam; in thy petition we will take refuge, and in the confident hope of the prayers of St. John we will conquer the evil One and his host. And by the prayer of the prophets, apostles and martyrs and fathers and teachers, and by the prayer of our Holy Father St. Stephen, and of the confessors and of St. George, and the great power of the Cross and the hallowing of the holy Church, we will beseech Christ to have mercy and compassion upon our souls.

ARAMAIC—ENGLISH PRAYER-BOOK NEAR PUBLICATION STAGE

After months of careful preparation, a Prayer-Book in English and Aramaic is almost complete. It contains the people's parts of the Qurbana, with the Aramaic words (in English letters) paralleled with the meaning in English. Besides the principal parts of the liturgy, a number of hymns in constant use will be contained.

His Holiness the Patriarch has supervised every step of this undertaking. Final typing is now being done by Miss Shirley Bacus, of Mar Sargis parish in Chicago.

When complete it will give younger members of the Church of the East a very great help in understanding the sacred words of their worship. It will also give them a much deeper knowledge of the old language—once the "basic language" of the world, the tongue in which Jesus and his Apostles taught the Gospel.

PETER ELBAG

Died Jan. 27, 1949, in Los Angeles, Cal.

Peter Elbag was born in Harpoot, Turkey, in 1875. After a successful business career as clothing merchant, he moved with his family to Worcester, Mass., where they resided for 40 years.

In 1935 his wife, Mary Koomar Elbag, died. He then moved to Los Angeles, Calif.

He leaves four daughters: Dorothy Mae Elbag, of Los Angeles; Mrs. Paris Chavoor, of Watertown, Mass.; Mrs. Paul der Stepanian of Worcester, and Mrs. Uleta Arslanian, of Watertown. There are two sons: Charles Raymond Elby, and Everett Richard Elbag, of Los Angeles; also five grandchildren.

Peter Elbag was kind, honest, and devout. His father was deacon in the church of Gevargis Kandrar, the Assyrian Church at Harpoot.

PROGRESS SHOWN BY STUDENTS IS "REMARKABLE"

The theological school at Tell Tamer has had its first term examinations. Reports are on the way to the Patriarchate.

Kashisha Yohanan reports that the progress made by the students is remarkable. It is his hope that the older ones within another year will be ready for ordination.

The Patriarch has written to Kashisha Rowil Arsanis, of Urumia, to select 10 scholars for the theological school to be started in Urumia, for the Church in Iran.

The greatest hope of the Patriarch for the support of these schools is from the Patriarchal Pence cans. The yield of these so far has been astonishingly good. Increased use of them is supremely necessary for the reestablishment of the Church of the East throughout the world.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

Published Monthly by
THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL,
INC.

6346 N. Sheridan Road,
Chicago

Phone, HO llycourt 5-2037

Subscription rates.....\$2 per year
Single copies, 20 cents

The Patriarchal Council, Inc.
Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president
Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president
Narsey Serges, secretary
Adam Benjamin, treasurer

Printed By Church Publishing House.

ALL PROTESTANTS ARE NESTORIANS

Jesus said: "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, a greater than Jonah is here."

Nineveh, capital of Assyria, accepted Christ when Jerusalem, capital of Judah, crucified him.

Assyrian Christians today are the remnant of the once mighty Catholic Church of the East, which stretched from the Mediterranean to the China Sea. Its bishops preached the "Luminous Religion" in the courts of the emperors of China, a thousand years before America was discovered.

By savage persecution at the hand of pagans, and equally savage tortures at the hands of the Roman Inquisition, its numbers were reduced; yet still they cling to their faith.

Out of the horrors of two World Wars has come a rebirth. The calous Romans, watching Christians die at the hands of Nero and Diocletian, said, "See, how these Christians love one another!" and Rome became Christian.

Even so, out of the tortures of Assyrian Christians has come a rebirth. For milleniums the Church of the East was headed by Patriarchs who took the name of Shimun—Simon—after the apostle whom Jesus called Peter. In 1920, the mantle of the Patriarchate descended upon Eshai d' Mar Shimun, a lad of 12, in the refugee camp at Ba-Quba, in Mesopotamia.

In the endless turmoil of the Middle East, he was exiled, and came to this country. In his coming American Protestant Christianity has found a valiant witness and defender of its own faith.

Protestantism's appeal is to the Scriptures; but always until now it had been forced to direct its appeal to versions of the Scriptures received from the hands of the Church of Rome. To the Eastern Christians, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic are alike "Rome", and are held guilty of twisting the Scriptures to suit the political ambitions of whatever emperor held sway at the time.

But now we find that the Apostolic Catholic Church of the East has preserved the Scriptures in the original language in which Jesus preached and the Apostles wrote. And this ancient church, the original Apostolic Catholic church of Asia, upholds Protestantism in its main assertions.

In creedal struggles over fifteen hundred years ago, this ancient church received the nickname of Nestorian, after Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople of the Greek Orthodox Church of Eastern Rome.

Examining this dispute, we find not only that Nestorius was right, but also that ALL PROTESTANTS ARE NESTORIANS. For the issue of that ancient struggle was:

"Can a woman be older than God?"

Nestorius said "No." The council which condemned him, controlled by Egyptians, said "Yes." They took the mantle of Isis and threw it over the form of Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus.

The title "Mother of God" affirms that a woman, a created being, was mother of the Uncreated; that the young girl of Nazareth was older than the eternal Word of God, since a mother must of necessity be older than her child.

On this issue, all Protestants stand with Nestorius.

LIGHT IS FROM THE EAST

This paper is called "Light from the East," to set forth a simple fact—light does dawn in the East. The name also presents a wider truth; out of the great continent of Asia came the dawn of intellectual light.

Histories of philosophy until recently took the position that intellectual light began with the Greeks. Now we come upon the works of philosophers of Mesopotamia who, long before the Greeks, had grasped basic truths. Light of the mind dawned in the East.

Religious light also dawned in the East. The world's basic religions began in Asia. Judaism, Christianity and Islam, are all of Asian origin. So are Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism. The one man who most profoundly influenced the spiritual world in our day—Gandhi—came from India.

All light then is from the East—physical, mental and spiritual.

II

To present these truths to the world is one of our purposes. But an even more compelling need lies hard and heavy upon us—the need of keeping alive the children of the Church of the East, so that these facts, glorious as they are, shall not be an epitaph upon a wilderness of graves.

Assyrians in America cannot alone build schools, hospitals, homes, churches, dams, irrigation ditches, cities.

Americans are generous. They will help, as they have shown again and again. But to gain their help, the facts must be made known to them. It is for this purpose, also that Light from the East is published.

III

There is a third and greater task. The Church of the East took always for its guiding star the words of Jesus—"Go—teach." It built schools everywhere. For centuries it kept alive the torch of learning.

Wherever the missionaries known as Nestorian went, they taught the saving of the body and the saving of the earth, as well as the saving of the soul. They carried the healing power of Jesus. They practised both medicine and scientific agriculture.

Throughout the teeming lands of Asia no message is more desperately needed today than this triple teaching: Save the earth, and save the bodies of men.

The Church of the East hopes to reestablish its ancient colleges, to give the youth of Asia all the new learning of the modern day, both material and intellectual.

But the task is greater yet. We must teach these youths to train other Christians. We must develop speakers among the young men and women of the church in this country to proclaim this saving faith—faith in God, in the earth, and in man—to Americans, and abroad.

IV

Mary and Martha, the friends of Jesus, sent for him when their brother Lazarus died. Jesus went to the tomb. They said: "If thou hadst been here, our brother had not died." Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Then bidding them roll away the stone from the tomb, he cried: "Lazarus, come forth!" And he that was dead came forth from the tomb. Jesus said: "Loose him, and let him go."

In these days, and in our sight, this miracle has been repeated. Many thought the Church of the East was dead, the Assyrian race—first to embrace Christianity—finished. Then came the voice of Jesus, through his representative, your Patriarch, calling:

"Lazar, ta lawar!"—"Lazarus, come forth!" And your Church and nation have come forth from their tomb.

"Athuraya, ta lawar!" Assyrian, come forth!

THANKS TO CLERGY FOR GENEROSITY

Thanks of the Patriarch were extended to the great number of clergy of the Episcopal Church who responded to his appeal on behalf of the Assyrian Christians, through the Living Church, published in Milwaukee. A great proportion of these replies were from retired clergymen, living on meager pensions, and from invalids, and very small missions.

Here is one letter:

"I am enclosing a contribution in answer to your stirring appeal. It is the most pathetic of many such that have come to my attention. I wish we could send more, but on the retired list, this is the best we could

do."—Rev. Robert Phillips, Greenville, S. C.

Another:

"This answer to the appeal for help to the Church of the East is very small, but at the present is all I can give. Be assured, however, that I will bring this to the attention of our congregation, and although our missions are small, I am sure they will respond to the appeal."—Arthur W. Leaker, Arcadia, Rhode Island.

And again:

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help our brothers in Christ whose plight is so terrible. Please let me hear further of what is being done to help them."—Roddey Reid, Anderson, S. C.

WORLD COUNCIL ASKS CONTINUED REPRESENTATION

Greatly to his regret, the Patriarch of the East was unable to attend the meeting of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam this last summer.

He has just received a letter from the general secretary of this World Council in Geneva, as follows:

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Geneva, Switzerland

Feb. 5, 1949

Your Holiness:

Now that the first assembly of the World Council lies behind us, I desire to write you in order to say that we have greatly regretted that you could not be with us at that historic gathering, but that at the same time we understand very well why you were unable to be with us.

We would like to express our desire that your church should continue to participate in the World Council, even though in the present situation it may not always be easy to participate as fully as you would desire to do.

When I read the letter which you sent me before the Assembly, I was reminded of the days when you lived in Geneva, and when I heard for the first time from your own lips the great and tragic story of your church and people. Since that day I have always tried to remember in a special way the fight of that historic Christian body and I formulate therefore the very deepest wishes for the future.

I remain with respectful greetings
Yours most sincerely

W. A. Visser 't Hooft,

(General Secretary.)

THE ALPHABET, ASSYRIA'S GREATEST GIFT TO THE WORLD

Strangest and greatest of the world's untold stories is that of the Alphabet.

Every child begins its education by learning its ABC's. But nobody tells him where these letters came from, because most of our educators do not know. Yet a good deal of the history of mankind is wrapped up in the story of how we got these ABC's.

For ages, many people in many lands, tried to work out a system of writing. Many of these systems have remained to this day. Many others have been lost. Most of them were so complicated it took years just to learn the letters. Chinese, Japanese, Egyptians, and the old arrow-head clay writing we call cuneiform were so hard to learn very few people could manage to get an education. The ogham letters of the Irish, and the picture writing of the ancient Mexicans, are puzzling, and baffle attempt to read them.

People used all kinds of things to write on; bark of trees, clay, stone, skins of animals, or wax spread on wood. One of the most famous of all races, the Romans, used wax tablets. The Greeks frequently used pieces of broken dishes, called "ostraka", which means oyster-shells. Mohammed's Koran was first written on the shoulder-blades of sheep.

Skins of animals were made into parchment, and rolled in long rolls like wall-paper. In Egypt, reeds were made into papyrus.

For centuries the people who lived "Between the Rivers"—in Mesopotamia, as the Greeks called Beth-Nahreen, the "House of the Rivers"—made marks on clay, then baked the clay and sent bricks to each other for letters.

Sheets of wood, fastened together with leather thongs, were used in India.

Writing was a great problem, and reading what was written was just as difficult.

But all of a sudden, about 3,000 years ago—perhaps more—the writing we still use suddenly appeared in the mountains of Assyria. Where it came from, or what person invented it, we do not know; but we do know why it was invented, and who invented it. It was the race of people called the Arameans, whose capital for centuries lay in Assyria.

Aramaic, the language they spoke, is a very wonderful language. It is not only the tongue in which Jesus spoke and the tongue in which the Gospels were written. For many centuries it was the "basic language" of the world, in which business and politics was carried on. It gave birth to nearly all of what we now know as education.

Why Mar Shimun Sent Regrets to Canterbury

Because of the dire need of the Assyrians. Patriarch Mar Shimun found it necessary to decline the cordial invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to attend the sessions of the Lambeth Conference.

A special request to the Patriarch asked that he bring his official robes, to join in the opening ceremony of this conference of the bishops of the Anglican communion throughout the world. This was followed by other letters, pressing the Patriarch for his presence at this gathering.

Herewith is printed the full correspondence between the Patriarch and the Archbishop: First, to show the close relations existing between the Anglican and Nestorian churches; and second, to explain why, after so many vain efforts to gain help, the Patriarch turned to the governments of the home lands.

Patriarch's Letter

May 28, 1948.

His Grace, The Archbishop of Canterbury,

Beloved Brother in Christ,

I am sorry to have to inform you that because of the present desperate plight of the Assyrian people and the Church of the East throughout the world, it has been necessary for me to abandon my visit to England for the Lambeth Conference.

This causes me profound regret, since I have long looked forward to this conference with the greatest anticipation and pleasure.

But at this moment, exiled Assyrians settled in the Khabour Valley in Syria, are facing imminent starvation, and they appeal to me for help.

We have undertaken in this country a campaign to supply their most urgent needs, and the project has not yet got underway.

In addition, the condition of my people in other lands has reached the most critical stage in our long history.

These conditions demand my full attention, and therefore render it impossible for me to leave this country for any length of time. I am confident you will understand this decision which has been made with great reluctance.

However, I wish to express once again my deep gratitude for the honour which your Grace, in inviting me to the Lambeth Conference, extends through me to the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, of which I have the privilege to be by divine permission the Patriarch and head.

This, the most ancient church in Christendom, has been reduced by endless persecutions to a shadow of its former glory. Yet it has established in the service of the Master, whom we all worship and confess as

true God and true Man, a record which shall stand forever glorious in the history of Christianity.

That record serves as a beacon for those who today are faced with the same challenge which the faithful of the Church of the East, in their own times and places, at the cost of extreme suffering and countless lives, accepted without hesitation.

It was my intention to present to Your Grace, and to all the Brothers in Christ who will meet under your Presidency at the Lambeth Conference, the full facts concerning the present state of the Church of the East, and of my people the Assyrians.

It was my hope that on learning these facts—so generally unknown—the conference would adopt a resolution urging upon the British and American governments immediate action to relieve the Christian Assyrians in Syria, now facing extermination.

It was my further hope, that at this conference a permanent solution might be found to the Assyrian question as a whole.

I was moved to these hopes by the recent action of the Bishops of the American Episcopal Church, who forcefully presented the case of the Assyrian Christians to the President of the United States; an act which will be long remembered with deep gratitude by our people.

In venturing to recall to you this action of the American Bishops, I ask for your holy prayers on behalf of my stricken and suffering people. If similar action could be taken by all the Bishops assembled at Lambeth, it might prove to be in the providence of God, a means of bringing life from the dead for this Christian nation, so long loyal to Jesus

In the words of the Master: "Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of

these least brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

I join in prayer, Venerable Brother, for the success of the Lambeth Conference, upon whose decisions depend the future of so many millions of the faithful of the Anglican Communion.

With this communion the Church of the East is united in the bonds of Christian fellowship proved by you in many acts of kindly helpfulness treasured by us.

I greet you with the message which is the basis of the Christian faith, and the cause of its resounding victory over all the forces of evil; "Kamleh Maran—Our Lord has risen!"

May that message be made known and accepted by all men; and may all mankind be saved through His resurrection.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, Amen.

Your Brother in Christ,

Eshai Shimun,

By Grace, Catholicos Patriarch of the East.

Archbishop's Reply

7th June, 1948.

His Beatitude the Most Reverend the Assyrian Patriarch, Eshai Mar Shimun XXIII,
Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

Beloved Brother in Christ;

Thank you for your letter of May 28, from which with great regret I learn that you will be prevented from joining us, as we had hoped you would be able to do, in the opening ceremonies of the Lambeth Conference.

My regret at your not being able to come is not lessened by the knowledge of the unfortunate circumstances among your people, which make it necessary for you to cancel your visit. I see, however, a ray of hope in the fact that you have undertaken a campaign in America

for their most urgent needs, and would send you the assurance of my good wishes, and prayers for the success of this venture.

The Lambeth Conference is, as you know, a gathering of Bishops of the Anglican Communion, and it is unlikely there will be much opportunity, amidst the many pressing domestic matters which have accumulated during the course of the eighteen years since the last Conference was held, for resolution of the difficulties which beset our brethren in other parts of the Church of Christ. This is not to say that we shall not be deeply concerned to do all in our power to contribute towards the alleviation of suffering and distress, where it is practicably possible to do so.

The condition of the great numbers of your countrymen concerns me very deeply, and I do not doubt that my concern is shared by many of the Bishops who will in a short time be assembling here. Whether it will be possible or not for any action to be taken by the Bishops in assembly I am not able at the moment to foretell, since it depends in the last resort not upon me, as president of the conference, but upon those who take part in it.

I ask you to continue to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God upon us in our deliberations, and joyfully return your greeting with the words: "The Lord is risen indeed."

May the One God and Father of us all bless you, your church and people and alleviate the trials and sufferings which for so many centuries have been your lot in the mysterious providence, according to which He brings us ever nearer to Himself.

I remain,

Your beloved brother and servant

GEOFFREY,

Archbishop of Canterbury,
Primate of All England and
Metropolitan.

PATRIARCH'S REPLY

Dec. 14, 1948

Beloved Brother in Christ:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 1948, along with the printed report of the Lambeth Conference, which has reached me.

I have appreciated deeply the brotherly spirit of fellowship in Christ, which you express in the name of all the bishops of the Anglican Communion toward the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East. In my own name and in that of the Church of the East, I wish to assure you of our sincere desire for all fellowship and mutual understanding with the Anglican Communion in our Lord's own words, "That they may be one, even as we are one." This church of the apostles, martyrs, and confessors, has through its long and glorious history striven for the fulfilment of that command.

In conclusion I wish to thank you for the very kind message you sent me for this Yuletide, and which I wish to reciprocate in the words of the holy and historic message:

"On earth peace, and good hope to the children of man."

May that be true for all the world and may all be saved by believing in Him and following his example.

May the Lord bless and give you the strength and wisdom to carry out the great responsibility that is yours.

Your brother in Christ
ESHAI SHIMUN.

By grace,
Catholicos Patriarch of the East.

HOPES RAISED HIGH, THEN DASHED DOWN

A. M. Hamilton, Consulting Engineer, of Westminster, London S. W. 1, writes:

"If Christianity proved itself an active force, protecting or at least assisting its people wherever they are, it would do much in stabilizing Asia, for even the Mohammedan admires adherence to conviction and belief.

"I think I am not in error, following the years I myself spent in dealing with mixed Eastern labor, when I say that it will add greatly to Anglo-Saxon prestige if we gain the reputation of never failing to try and help those of whatever creed, who ask our assistance.

"Concerning the actual right of the Assyrians to have their case mentioned at the Lambeth Conference, I need only tell you that following the London Victory parade, when our troops were brought from all the fighting fronts, those specially honored by being taken to Lambeth Palace were the dozen Assyrian soldiers from Habbaniyeh.

"In a most moving prayer, the Rev. Canon J. A. Douglas spoke in the bombed chapel, expressing new hope for their race. All those present were most deeply impressed. Those men returned to Iraq believing that help would be forthcoming, and that out of their present trying hour a brighter future would emerge."

O compassionate Father, and merciful Son, and pitiful Spirit, the sanctifier of the unclean; sanctify our bodies and our souls, and have mercy upon us.

May the praises and singing of hallelujahs of the heavenly host, and the petition of the Son on the right hand of the Father, beseech for us of thy righteousness, and do thou have mercy upon us.

O Mary, Mother of the King, the King of Kings; beseech Christ, who shone forth from thy bosom, that he may pity us in his lovingkindness, and make us worthy of his kingdom.

Just received from India
a new shipment of
**The Story of
A CHURCH ON FIRE**
Nestorian Missionary Enterprise

By **THE REV. JOHN STEWART**
History of the Church of the East and its conquest
of Asia. An amazing story of an
amazing enterprise.

Order of
THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL, INC.
6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago
Price \$2.

BRITISH LEADER CONFESSES FAILURE

In advance of the Lambeth Conference, the Rev. W. A. Wigram, for many years a warm friend of the Assyrians, confessed total failure on the part of the British to help them, and outlined the course which since has been adopted by the Patriarch as the only means of success. He wrote:

What the Assyrians need are:

1. Assurance of fair treatment from the various governments of the lands in which they find themselves; Iran, Iraq and Syria.
2. Schools and printing facilities, in order that they may be able to secure a supply of bishops and clergy.
3. Such a measure of intercommunion with the Anglican communion, both in this country and in America, as would enable them to receive the help that we in all parts of the Anglican Communion are ready to give.

I fear that I do not see how the Lambeth Conference can do anything to secure the first of these. Some of us in the Church of England did all that we could to secure this political object, when Britain was in occupation of Iraq, and we failed so completely that the Assyrians were justified in saying: "If you cannot help us thoroughly, leave us alone, for you do us more harm than good."

Money for school and printing facilities will always be welcome, but I suspect the Assyrians will desire to manage these matters for themselves.

LAMSA'S BOOKS

This great scholar's translation direct from the original Aramaic, and his wonderful commentaries on Scriptural life and times, have produced the effect of a revolution in all religious circles. The word most often applied to them is "—Marvellous!"

MY NEIGHBOR JESUS,	\$1.50	NEW TESTAMENT ORIGIN,	\$2.00
GOSPEL LIGHT,	\$2.75	THE BOOK OF PSALMS,	\$1.50
THE NEW TESTAMENT,	\$2.50	THE SHEPHERD OF ALL,	\$.60
NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY,	\$3.75	MODERN WISDOM,	\$.75

By **GEORGE M. LAMSA**

Order them all direct from **LIGHT FROM THE EAST**

6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago 20.

HOW TO LEARN ARAMAIC

Aramaic is the language of Jesus, the very tongue in which the Gospel first was preached and written.

We can begin to learn it from the Lord's own lips. Nine utterances in the Aramaic language are recorded in the Gospels, most of them uttered by Christ Himself. With them as a start, we soon can master much of the language that at one time was the method of communication of the whole world, both in politics and in religion.

Those utterances are:

Talitha, Cum!—Maiden, arise.

Simon Bar-Jona—Simon, son of Jonas.

Ephphatha—Be opened.

Abba—Father.

Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani—

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me.

Raca—I spit on you.

Corban (Qurbana)—A sacred offering.

St. Paul adds, Maran Atha—

Our Lord Has Come.

Mary Magdalene cried, on seeing the risen Christ, Rabboni!

—My Teacher.

We may take each of these words, follow it through, and learn a great deal of the language and liturgy of the Catholic Church of the East.

It is easy to obtain a fair knowledge of Aramaic without learning the ancient alphabet, by use of English letters. It is not, however, possible to learn the proper pronunciation, except by hearing the language spoken.

Let us begin with the words He uttered in the moment of intense agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

At that time, when even his nearest and dearest followers had deserted him were too sleepy to continue with him in prayer, Jesus cried

with anguished lips, in a voice that awoke even the sleepy trio that accompanied him into the inner recesses of the Garden:

"Abba—Father!"

With that word as a key we can begin to unlock the *Gazza d' Rukha*—the Treasury of the Spirit.

In Assyrian, the letter "b" is frequently pronounced very softly, spoken with the lips not quite closed. Try this. say "Abba", as though you were uttering the English word "Abbot." Then say it without quite closing the lips. You will make a sound like "Ahwa." It is a beautiful, soft sound.

Say this softly, and reverently. It is the sound Jesus uttered when calling upon God the Father.

Possessive pronouns are formed by adding a syllable; Thus:

My Father—Abi.

Our Father—Abun.

Thy Father—Abakh.

Your Father—Abukkhun.

His Father—Abuh.

Their Father—Abuhun.

Her Father—Abih.

In each case pronounce the B like "wh." "His Father" then will sound like "Ahwooh." And Our Father will sound like "Ahwoon."

That is the first word of the Lord's Prayer:

"Abun (Ahwoon), d'-ba-shmaya . . . Our Father, who in heaven." The verb "art" is not used in Aramaic. It is simply, "Our Father, who in heaven." It is pronounced like "Awoon, d'wa-shmaya."

Thus in the Creed:

"Begotten of his Father".

"Min Abuh ethilid".

"Sitteth on the right hand of His Father".

"Itib min yamina d'Abuh".

You have made a good beginning.

O Christ our Savior, by the prayer of the saints, thy prophets and martyrs and all the just; keep the company of thy worshippers from all harm.

LEARNING THE LORD'S LANGUAGE THROUGH THE CHURCH'S HYMNS

We can learn Aramaic, the Lord's Language, most easily by studying it in action, in one of the hymns of St. Aprim which is offered constantly in the worship of the Church of the East. We will take "Father of Truth" for our text. It is of importance because of its clear statement of doctrine in exquisitely simple yet highly poetic form.

The doctrine is presented in a concentrated solution. The short phrases are like hammer blows; repeated phrases of powerful teaching in melodious simplicity.

FATHER OF TRUTH

Abba d'qushta,	Father of Truth,
Ha b'rakh deokha	lo, thy Son is sacrifice
Da-m'rao-lakh;	Who pleads to thee.
L'hana qabbil	Him receive
Da-khlapay mith	Who instead of me died
O'ith-khasse-beh.	And I shall be forgiven in him.
Han Qurbana	This offering
Sao min eeday	Take from my hands
O'ith-raa-li;	And be pleased with me.
O'la-tidkhar-li	And hold not against me
Kh'tahe d'searith	sins I have committed
Q'tham rabbuthakh.	Before thy greatness.
Ha d'meh ashith	Behold his blood is shed
Al Gaghulta	Upon Golgotha
Mittul purqan,	For our salvation,
O'baee khlapay	And he pleads on my behalf
Qabbil bauth	Receive the petition
Mittul-ate.	For his sake.

In this hymn we encounter words we meet all through the Liturgy.

FIRST VERSE

Abba is pronounced in the soft Assyrian way; "Awa." The letter "d" is of great importance in Aramaic; meaning "of" and "who" and several other things according to its position. Here it means of—"Father of Truth", but the phrase could also be translated "Father, who art truth."

"Ha" is "behold, see, lo." In common English—"Look!"

B'rakh is "Bara"—"son" with the ending "kh" meaning "thy."

"Deokha" is the way the word "d'bakha" is pronounced, with the soft "b". It is the same as the Hebrew "zabakh", meaning a bloody sacrifice, like those offered on the altar of the Temple at Jerusalem.

"M" is one of those important letters which transforms a verb or adjective into a noun. Thus "ram" is high, "m'ram" is height, "m'romai" is heights.

The verb "raa" means "plead." m'rao means a pleader, one who is presenting a petition. "lakh" is "to thee."

"L'Hana"—on him.

"Qabbil"—receive.

"da-Who. "khlap" is instead of, "Khlapay is "instead of me", or "on my behalf."

Mith—died.

Khasse means forgive. Ith-khasse—I am forgiven. "beh" is "in him."

SECOND VERSE

Han, like hana, above, means "this."

'Qurbana"—offering. The root word means "to draw near." Qurbana is an offering with which we draw near; it is set over against "deokha", a bloody offering. "Qurbana" is a peace offering.

"Sao"—take.—imperative form of "nasob", with the soft "b".

Min—from. Eeday—my hands.

o'—and,

ith-raa—be pleased.

li—with me.

la—not.

dkhar—hold. Tidkhar—"hold thou". li—"to me", or "against me."

kh'tahe—sins. It is the same as the Hebrew word "khatta".

d'—which.

searith. I have done.

q'tham, sometimes written "qadem"—before.

"Rab" means great. "Rabbuth" greatness. Rabbuthakh—thy greatness.

"Rabbi" means "my great one." "Rab-khaiala" means general of the army.

THIRD VERSE

Ha—behold. D'meh—his blood. Ashith—is shed.

Al Gaghulta—upon Golgotha.

Mittul—because, for, on account of.

Purqan—Our salvation. ("paruq" means "save.")

Baee—he pleads, he asks. ("khlapay" in my behalf. (see verse 1)

Qabbil—receive—same word as in verse 1.

Bauth—petition, asking. Noun form of verb "baee".

Mittul-ate. Because of him, On his account.

NESTORIAN PRAYERS

LAKHUMARA

Thee, Lord of all, we confess,
And thee, Jesus Christ, we glorify;
For thou art the Quickener of our bodies,
And thou art the Savior of our souls.

Let us confess, O my Lord, thy Godhead,
And worship thy majesty,
And lift up perpetual praise without ceasing
To thy glorious Trinity, at all times,
O Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Forever, Amen.

To thee, O Lord, mighty God, we entrust our bodies and our souls; and of thee, O our Lord and our God, we ask forgiveness of trespasses and sins. Give us this in thy lovingkindness and mercies as thou art wont at all times, O Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, forever. Amen.

Apostolic Origin of Church of East

The Church of the East and of the Assyrians is officially known as the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East.

The Church of the East in the U. S. A., has added to its title "and of the Assyrians" in order to distinguish the race. It also uses the historic appellation, "Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East." This Church was founded by the Apostles, St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. Thaddeus and St. Mari of the seventy disciples. The city of Urhai (Edessa) and the city of Arbil (Arbela) in North West Mesopotamia and Assyria respectively, were the starting points of the Eastern Christianity.

The missionary enterprise of the Church of the East remains unsurpassed in the annals of Christian History. It carried the gospel of Christ from the Mediterranean to the Pacific and parts of the Atlantic Ocean. St. Jerome speaks of the Missionaries of this church as having been the first to preach Christianity to the roaming Huns. In the year 150 A.D. Tatian, the Assyrian, visited Rome. Under him studied the famous Tertullian.

Speaking the Aramaic language, the language of Christ and His Apostles, in which language they received the gospels from the original sources; the Assyrians had a unique opportunity in appreciating the teaching of the Master, and likewise, conveying it to others in a manner that was not possible to non-Aramaic speaking races. The famous "Nestorian" Monument in China, remains a silent but immortal witness to the unsurpassed love and zeal of the missionaries of the Church of the East.

Christianity within the Persian Empire quickly grew to such an importance that the Christians were recognized as a Melet or Nation by the Parthian ruling dynasty, enjoying special political, legal and cultural status. The Patriarch was recognized by the Persian Emperors, the Arab Khalifs, the Mogul Khans and the Ottoman Sultans, as both temporal and spiritual head of the Christians within the empire.

The College of Edessa was the first Christian institution of its kind. It radiated knowledge to both the Persian and Roman Empire. It is to this and other equally famous Assyrian institutions, such as the University of Nisibis, that the world owes the sciences that have led to modern chemistry. In the eighth century A.D., Mar Eyob, (Job), Principal of the University of Nisibis, wrote his famous work on the elemental origin of the bodies. These and other sciences were introduced into Europe some five centuries later, via Cordova, Spain, by the invading Moors.

While the western church from the beginning of the fourth century on, enjoyed the full protection and all secular advantages that the Sceptre of Byzantine Emperors could afford; the Church of the East on the other hand, faced the full fury of relentless, successive persecutions.

By standing in the gap at this most critical period in the history of Christianity, the Eastern Christians contributed immeasurably to saving the Western Christianity from all onslaughts. To compare with this the attitude of the Western Christianity from the fifth century A.D. on, towards their brothers of the East, and especially during the last four centuries or so, makes indeed a very sad comparison. All these factors have contributed to the sad plight, in which this great missionary Church of Asia today finds itself. But the day is breaking over Asia!