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**LIGHT FROM THE EAST**

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1949

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No. 7



**GREEK PRINCE VISITS CATHEDRAL IN INDIA**

Prince Peter seated in center, wearing garland of welcome. On his left, C.P. Kunjuvaried, Francis Chandy; right, M. O. Thomas, K.P. Thoma. (Story on page )

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## A CHALLENGE TO THE ASSYRIANS

By George M. Lamsa

The time has come! Assyrians must awake, unite and work together in the interest of their race, language and culture. Today all the Assyrians know no one else will help them rise. They have learned through bitter experience that the European peoples, who exploited their cause for selfish aims in the Near East and, who have been responsible for their downfall and untold suffering, will not shed a single tear over them, not even if all the Assyrians were to starve or be destroyed.

People suffer through blunders, greed, and worldly aspirations. But the Assyrians have suffered through misplaced trust. They have been too credulous toward men who came to them from foreign lands, promising a better religion - which the promisers never had - and freedom and prosperity - which they never cared to share with non-Europeans. This is why the Assyrians were exploited of their rich heritage, their dear and true faith. This is why today the Assyrians are scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

The Assyrian Christians were victims of Western political and economic intrusion in the Near East. Being Christians, they trusted other Christians. They never believed they would be betrayed and deserted. Thirty years ago, the words of a European diplomat or a missionary were held superior to the words of the prophets and apostles. In those days the Assyrians looked on foreign agents and propagandists as men of God who had come to help and save them.

A few decades ago our people were taught to pray for the Christian governments who were heralded as liberators by those who sold their precious faith for money, wheat, sugar and other comforts of this life. The prayers were answered, but much to our disappointment and sorrows. Many of us who today live in this blessed country remember when imperial Russia and Great Britain divided Iran into two spheres of influences, and Russian soldiers paraded in the streets of Rezaieh.

Many of us saw these things with our own eyes. Now we know that we were used by Great Britain and Russia for their own gains, and then abandoned. Some of our people have not yet learned their lesson. They are still willing to become the victims of communist propagandists in the Near East thus endangering the security of our people. Others are still worshipping Baal and wandering in darkness after false teachers whose corrupt acts have brought so much misery and suffering upon us, and made us enemies of our Moslem neighbors.

The past has taught us that our best friends are the inhabitants of our native countries, the Iranians, the Iraqians and the Syrians. They are the only ones who will help us to rise up again and take our place as a people. They are the only ones who still honor our beloved Patriarch. They and we are one people.

## GREAT POWERS PLAN TO RECLAIM MIDDLE EAST LANDS BY IRRIGATION

Reports from the Khabour Valley indicate there have been ample rains this year, and that the people there are having a good crop. They are now beginning to gather the harvest, which is bountiful. The long period of hunger is over, health and prosperity are returning to the people, so long in distress.

Thus is fulfilled the prayer:

Al mozaghow d'aar, o'kahinotha d'shatta, o'allatha d'pere,  
o'al toqana d'khole alma; baenan minnakh;  
Marya, ithrakhmalain.

Irrigation of the Khabour Valley on a gigantic scale, bringing 100,000 more acres under cultivation and greatly increasing the productivity of acreage now used, is one of the projects discussed at a conference in London July 26.

Faced with total failure of its policy in the Middle East, the British Government invited the other great powers to help finance development of the Middle East, particularly that portion to which the Assyrians were transplanted by the League of Nations in the region known as the Ghab--the Khabour Valley.

Underlying the project is a proposal that American, British, French and Dutch Oil companies increase the oil royalties they are paying Arab rulers. This would be done on the condition that the increased income be used in development of uncultivated areas.

Of the total tillable part of Syria, estimated at 4,000,000 acres, only 500,000 acres are now under cultivation, according to a dispatch by Frederick Kuh from London to the Sun-Times. All these acres would be reclaimed.

Another project discussed is to direct flood waters of the Euphrates into a reservoir near Habbaniyah. Then there is a plan to control the waters of the Tigris for irrigation. Another project is to control the River Orontes, in Syria, and also to build what is known as the Yusuf Pasha dam to regulate the waters of the upper Euphrates.

Railroads and roads would be built throughout these regions as part of the development. Thus the Middle East will again become the garden spot of the world, if these plans are carried through.

Of tremendous importance to the whole Christian World is the new volume, Liturgy of the Church of the East. It is of value not only for members of the Church who do not speak Aramaic very well. It is also a very great boon to Christians of other races, who will find it the best and easiest way to learn the Lord's Language. See advertisement on page 12.

## CHURCH AT TURLOCK BUILT AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE



The history of the Church in Turlock, California, began in 1941, with a visit of the Patriarch to California. At that time he called a meeting of all the members of the Church of the East in the house of Shamasha Baba Yohannan, on March 19, 1941. On this occasion the Patriarch established rules and a committee was elected.

On March 25, 1944, members of the church congregated again in the house of Deacon Yohannan and after some speeches and recommendations the members, inspired with zeal, decided to buy lots for a church. The lots were purchased in 1944.

His Holiness visited California next on May 23, 1945. Again he called a meeting of members of the Church, and of all Assyrians who signified their sympathy with the church of their fathers. This meeting was held in a little temporary structure known as the Church of the Assyrians. At this meeting the sum of \$2,500 was raised. Deacon Eramya Bacus was nominated chairman of the committee, and preparations for the building were put into operation.

Foundations of the building were laid March 8, 1947. In April the actual building was begun. All members of the Church of the East were present and labored very hard to dig the foundations. Work which ordinarily should have taken three days was performed in one day.

Due honor should be given all members of the church, every one of whom helped materially either by contributing money, performing actual labor, or both. Other denominations were amazed at the zeal and enthusiasm of members of our church throughout this period.

Shamasha Bacus has administered the affairs of the church with great energy and economy.

Sums expended in the completion of the structure are as follows:

Cash contributed by members.....	\$18,198
Value of labor contributed.....	5,000
Contributed by non-members.....	6,000
Debt.....	275

Total value of property.....\$29,473

Completion and consecration of this church marks a great forward step in the progress of the Church in the United States.

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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  
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\* Subscriptions to LIGHT FROM THE EAST are pouring  
in from the Middle East, as soon as copies reach  
the scattered settlements in those lands. Assyri-  
ans in America must not lag in supporting this  
world-magazine of their people and faith. \*

## 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
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## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FORMED BY CHURCH IN IRAN

A mandate was issued by the Patriarch from Chicago on Jan. 27, 1949, authorizing the clergy and members of the Church of the East in Iran to form an Administrative Council to handle the affairs of the Church in Iran.

In accordance with this mandate a meeting was held in Tehran, under the presidency of Kashisha Ruwil Sarnis, on June 14, 1949. An organization was effected, composed of the following:

President: The Rev. Ruwil Sarnis, Rezaieh, Chairman.  
Secretary: Samuel Kelaita, Tehran.  
Treasurer: Shimun Bengina, Tehran.

Members  The Rev. Hawil of Hamadan.  
Shimun Benjamin, Tehran.  
Mushey Barkho, Tehran.  
Zaya Yonan, Abadan.

These members of the Council were elected by 16 delegates chosen by members of the Church of the East throughout all of Iran. They requested the Patriarch to commission them for the task outlined by him. This was done.

In accordance with a further request, the Patriarch appointed Samuel Kelaita as supervisor of the Church in Iran, with instructions to visit all centers of the church in Iran and report on conditions there prevailing.

On recommendation of the Administrative Council the Patriarch also authorized establishment of the Patriarchal Theological School in Tehran, instead of Rezaieh, because Tehran is the capital of the empire, and also is more centrally located.

The Patriarch expressed himself as delighted by the zeal shown by members of the Church in Iran. Especially he is pleased that some of the members of the Council have promised to make contributions toward purchasing buildings for the Theological School in Iran and for the erection of a church.

This is the first time such a Council has been appointed for Iran. In former times the Patriarch himself lived in the Persian empire, or within easy reach of its borders.

It is hoped the work of the Administrative Council in Iran will be carried out with great success, and that the Church in Iran will once again hold the place it held from the dawn of history, as the Christian Church in and for Iran.

The Church in Iran will continue to pray for long life and success of His Imperial Majesty the Shah, and for peace and progress of his realm.

**VISIT BY GREEK PRINCE**  
(Picture on page 1)

Prince Peter of Greece visited the Chaldaean-Syrian Church of the East (by which name the Patriarchal Church is known) in Trichur, South India, during Holy Week. More than 10,000 people assembled to extend him a royal welcome. His Highness, who is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, expressed himself as tremendously interested in the glorious history of the Church of the East in India.

On his arrival he was garlanded by F.C. George, President of the All India Central Association of the Church, and Mr. Emil Thomas, on behalf of the trustees. At the portals of the Church the late Rev. K.L. Paulose, administrator, received the Prince and conducted him in procession. The prince visited the tomb of the late Mar Timotheos, metropolitan of India, after which he attended the Easter Eve Qurbana Qaddisha beginning at 7 o'clock on Saturday night. Later in the night he participated in the midnight Easter candle procession. His Highness evinced great interest in learning all about the Chaldaean-Syrian Church of the East. A group photograph of his highness with the trustees of the church and the executive committee of the All India Council was taken, and is published in this issue.

**NEWS FROM INDIA**

**ADMINISTRATOR AND TRUSTEES TO DIRECT CHURCH IN INDIA**

News of the death of the Rev. K.L. Paulose, administrator of the Church in India, was announced in the last issue of Light from the East. The Patriarch wrote instructing the authorities of the Church in India to elect an administrator and three trustees, to fill the number of those who has resigned or had died.

A meeting was convened immediately by the clergy and the surviving trustee, and the results of this meeting communicated to His Holiness. Further instructions were sent by him. It is hoped that the new administrator and the other officials will be elected within a short time.

It is hoped and expected that the present tendency in India in favor of a native church controlled by Indian people and conducted for Indians, will act strongly in favor of the Church of the East there. This has been the role of the Church of the East since its establishment in that historic land. The revitalized Church in India will, it is confidently expected, speedily assume its rightful status.

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**SELECT YOUR DELEGATES** to the convention in Chicago, November 3. Every parish and organization of the Church of the East in the United States is entitled to send a delegate.

## TWO CHURCH SCHOOLS OPENED IN IRAQ

### 69 Subscriptions From Habbaniyeh

Since the New Policy was announced by the Patriarch last fall of seeking loyal fellowship of all Assyrians with their compatriots under the governments of their respective countries, the ancient Church of the East has been springing to new and vigorous life.

In Habbaniyeh, where there are two settlements of Assyrians, a school has been established by the Rev. Abdul Akhad. Started only last year, it already enrolls some 300 children, both boys and girls. There are five teachers on the staff. It is hoped more can be added. The children pay tuition. Their families are very glad to help support the school. The Iraqi government has been very sympathetic toward the project, and supplies the children with textbooks in Arabic.

This school is in Railroad Camp of Baghdad, where Bishop Mar Sargis resides. There are some 2,000 to 3,000 Assyrians living there, with an equal number in the Gailani Camp. In both camps there are churches.

Another large and flourishing school has been opened in Mosul by the Rev. Joseph Kelaita, the enrollment numbering nearly 500. It is hoped to print a picture of this school in an early issue.

Kashisha Abdul Akhad writes that on receipt of the first copies of Light from the East, he obtained from Assyrians resident in Habbaniyeh, 69 subscriptions paid in full, which have been forwarded to the Council office in Chicago. In his accompanying letter Father Abdul Akhad writes that the people are delighted with the magazine, all copies being snatched up eagerly. They were especially keen about the December issue, containing the Christmas message, and ask for more pictures of His Holiness.

### FREEDOM OF WORSHIP GRANTED CHURCHES IN KINGDOM OF IRAQ

His Grace the metropolitan Mar Yosip, who represents the Patriarch in Iraq, has been reporting on the progress of the Church of the East in that country. He writes in deep appreciation of the freedom of worship which has been granted to the Church in Iraq. He recently visited the churches in various parts of the country, including the district of Amadia. He also visited Bishop Mar Yawalaha, in Dure Barwar. The bishop recently has undergone an operation for appendicitis, but is recovering.

In Iraq are a number of schools in which the Aramaic language and the doctrines of the Church of the East are taught. It is hoped that with the improvement in the financial situation of the Assyrians in that country and elsewhere, more such church schools will be established, and their standards improved.



## CLERGY IN KHABOUR VALLEY PLEDGE UNDYING LOYALTY

*Setting at rest all doubts, by whomever entertained, of the complete loyalty of the Assyrians on the Khabour Valley to the Mar Shimun, the following letter has been received at the Patriarchate.*

"Be it known to your Holiness that we, clerics of the Church of the East who dwell in the Khabour Valley in Syria, have received a copy of the Selected Synodical Rules, with interpretation by Your Holiness. We do not see your signature on them, but nevertheless we considered it essential that they should be seen and read by all the clergy of the church.

"Therefore we arranged to meet in two different places, and there to read your communication.

"One place was Tell Tamer, the other Tell Roman Takhtani. Those from the village of Tell Tawil as far as Tell Jaziri were to meet at Tell Tamer, and those from Tell Baz to Tell Hormiz should meet in Tell Roman Takhtani. This was fulfilled. We met on Sunday, July 3, in the village of Tell Tamer. All of us with one consent and with all our love declared our obedience to all the commands of Your Holiness. We clergy have no interest in any doings whatever that are contrary to the canonical rules and doctrines of the Church.

"It is also plain to all children of the Church of the East that the Patriarchal See has been the general leader of the East from the foundation of the church to this very day.

"Even now, we have no one else who has the authority to give and take with the governments of the East in the name of all the Assyrians, scattered in many lands, outside of Your Holiness.

"From all the Assyrian elements in the world we receive and acknowledge no instructions except those which come from Your Holiness, and which command us to be obedient and faithful to the governments under which we live, so that we may receive our rights like the rest of our compatriots of these lands."

This is signed by the following ten priests:

From Upper Tyari: Kashishas Toma, Warda Adam and Masikh of Walto; Yonan Adam of Tell Tamer, and Nathanael of Saraspido; Kashishas Toma, Mushey Yonan of Chamba; K. Basliel of Qudchanis, K. Yohanan of Gawar, Barwar and Jilu; K. Lazar Khoshaba of Halmon, Tell Juma.

Besides these, thirty-seven deacons signed the document. A similar paper was drawn up and signed by those who met at Tell Roman Takhtani. This has not yet been received.

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The Patriarchal Council, Inc.

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Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president  
Narsev Serqes, secretary - treasurer

## BANQUET OF THE TAKSA TO HAIL PUBLICATION OF LITURGY IN ENGLISH

On the 23rd of October, the Patriarch has requested that every congregation of the Church of the East in this country shall hold a banquet celebrating the publication of the new Liturgy in English and Aramaic.

At this banquet the new Taksā d'Raze will be placed on sale. Publication marks a forward step of the greatest importance in the progress of the church in this country. By its use, younger members of the Church will be able not only to join in worship freely but also to learn with the greatest of ease the Language of Jesus, their own ancestral tongue.

By request of the Patriarchal Council, bound copies will be sold for \$3. The proposed price of \$2 has been found to be insufficient to cover the cost of publication.

Whatever profits are derived from the book will go to future publications. Proceeds of the banquets themselves will be used for the Theological Schools in the Khabour Valley and at Tehran.

Income from the Patriarchal Pence cans, although of tremendous help, has been insufficient to meet the needs of these schools, which are expanding rapidly.

## PATRIARCH'S ITINERARY

On Friday Aug. 12, the Patriarch left for Flint, Mich., to attend to the affairs of the church there. On Sunday he celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha. From Flint he left for the East, and he will visit New Britain, Yonkers, and Philadelphia.

He is to be followed by the Rab Khaila and Lady Helen, for whom receptions have been arranged throughout the Eastern cities.

On their return, the Y will remain in Chicago for a week, then will proceed to California, where it is expected that the new church at Turlock will be consecrated.

## CHICAGO

On Sunday, July 31, the Patriarch ordained to the Order of Deacons, Sayad B. Jacob, in the Church of Mar Sargis. At the conclusion of the ordination he celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha, marking the Feast of Nusarvil. In the liturgy of the Church of the East, this day is known as the Feast of God and Commemoration of the Twelve Apostles.

In the afternoon, a picnic was held in the Forest Preserve. A sum of nearly \$400 was cleared, which will go to support of the Patriarchal Schools in the Middle East.

The Church in Yonkers also has recently held a picnic at which a substantial sum was cleared for the parish fund.

## HAWAII CALLING

A request for information pertaining to Light from the East and other literature of the Church of the East has come from Elmer Wong 2027 Uhu Street, Honolulu 45 Oahu Hawaii.

Patriarch's Letter of Farewell  
to Iranian Ambassador ad Interim

Replying to the letter from F. Noury Esfandiary -- ambassador ad interim from Iran -- published in the last issue of Light from the East, the Patriarch sent the following acknowledgment, dated June 3, 1949:

Your Excellency:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 19, which we were glad to receive. We are sorry to hear that you are expecting to return to Iran, but we are hoping this may be only temporary -- and that you will soon return to Washington. Nevertheless we share the hope of perhaps meeting in Iran.

We are extremely sorry that it has been impossible for you to visit Chicago, for we had looked forward to the pleasure of receiving you at the Patriarchate. We much appreciate your good wishes for the success of our humble efforts on behalf of the Assyrians in Iran but we wish to state that any result that these efforts may have brought forth, and may bring forth in the future, have been primarily due to your own personal interest in the matter during your office as ambassador ad interim. It is our hope and prayer that the sound foundation thus laid will yield fruit that will benefit not only the Assyrians, but all their Iranian compatriots.

This we look forward to accomplishing through the good will of the government of Iran, under the leadership of its liberal sovereign, His Imperial Majesty -- the Shah-in-Shah.

With all good wishes for a bon voyage,

Yours sincerely,  
Esnai Shimun  
by Grace  
Catholicos Patriarch of  
the East and of  
the Assyrians.

QYAMTA D'ATHURAYE

Just a year ago, His Holiness the Patriarch determined to adopt a new world policy on behalf of the Assyrian people. For thirty years he had been appealing to the Western nations, without result. Last July he contacted the representatives of the Middle Eastern governments, first at the United Nations, then at Washington.

He told them the desire of the Assyrians is to live in peace, as loyal citizens of the countries in which they reside.

The result was electric. Cordial welcome immediately was extended by all of the governments -- Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon --- under which Assyrians reside.

Since then, the picture has changed completely. Plentiful harvests have blessed the dwellers on the Khabour River. Schools have been established in Iran and Iraq, theological seminaries have begun to train up again priests of the Church of the East in places where they are to serve.

An outburst of loyalty has come rolling in in great waves of devoted affection from all over the world toward the Patriarch. Councils, modeled on the Patriarchal Council are being established in lands where it seems appropriate. The Church and the Nation are rising from the long period of inactivity and despair.

The call "Qum, Athuraya!" ----- "Rise, Assyrian!" has been heeded the world over. Within this year, has occurred a Qyamta d'Athuraye -- a Rising Up of the Assyrians, to their full stature as loyal citizens of the lands in which they live, and loyal members of the Church of the East, the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church founded by Christ Himself, still speaking the Lord's Language and holding unchanged the Apostolic Faith.

Tishbukhta l'Alaha ba-Mrome!

*Liturgy of the  
Holy Apostolic Catholic  
Church of the East*  
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parallel columns of Aramaic in English letters

By this means every member of the Church of  
The East will be able to follow the sublime  
Liturgy of the Apostles. Those not familiar  
with the Lord's Own Language,--Aramaic--can  
learn it in this way by using it in prayer.

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Apostolic times
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and Feasts of Our Lord
- 6 Essentials of the Doctrine of the Church of  
the East

96 pages....Authorized by His Holiness,  
the Catholicos Patriarch of the East,  
Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII

*Published by The Patriarchal Council, Inc.*  
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