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LIGHT FROM THE EAST
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1950

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No. 5

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL AT TEHRAN



Front Row; Shamasha Gewargis, Kashisha Asarnis, Shamasha Mattai.

Back Row; Talmidey Eshai, Babila, Pera, Simon.

Theological School In Tehran Opens

News that the theological school in Tehran is in actual operation, having opened its sessions in September, brought great joy to the heart of the Patriarch. Receiving the information, with the accompanying photograph of the first class, he said;

"Launching the theological school in Tehran is of the utmost importance. It is the first time since before the first World War, that the Church of the East has undertaken such an enterprise in Iran."

Need for priests and bishops in Iran is well known to all members of the Church. In fact, if immediate steps are not taken to provide clergy for that ancient branch of the church in the Persian Empire, the church might disappear completely.

This would not be only a spiritual tragedy for the Holy Apostolic church of the East, but also for that great empire with which the history of the Church of the East for the past 2,000 years has been synonymous.

Progress of this work depends on the zeal of its children, both in Iran and elsewhere. The economic situation of Assyrians in the Middle East makes it imperative that their brethren in the United States give generously toward support and maintenance of this institution. It is hoped that not only the members of the Church of the East, in the United States will do their duty fully, but also the Assyrians in general irrespective of their denominational affiliations, who are equally interested in the great heritage of their forefathers, will share in support of this enterprise.

Governor Of Mosul Pays Visit To The Patriarch



His Excellency M. Said Kazaz, Mutasarraff (Governor) of Mosul, Iraq, paid a visit to His Holiness Mar Shimun, Patriarch of the East, on Sept. 2. He was entertained at a dinner in the Patriarchate, with Lady Helen as hostess. Also present were The Rev. Iskaq Rehana, the Rev. Saul D. Neesan, Gen. David d' Beth Mar Shimun, George M. Lamsa, and the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker.

His Excellency is studying irrigation and waterpower works in this country, with a view to adopting the best features of American engineering for the extensive new projects, including dams for irrigation and electric power, now being considered by the government of Iraq.

Millions of dollars are being paid to Iraq for the oil that has been discovered there, and is being exported. Of this money, the bulk will go for irrigation, said His Excellency, with large sums also being spent for education, and for electric power derived from water.

At present, there are some 5,000,000 citizens of Iraq, whereas the country is amply able to support a population many times as great, said His Excellency.

Gov. Kazaz, by ancestry a Kurd of Sulaimania, brought out interesting facts regarding the Kurdish language, and its wealth of poetry and song. The Kurdish tongue, he said, forms a link between Sanskrit and Western languages such as

Latin, Greek, German and English. Strangely enough, many Kurdish words are identical with the English words. He mentioned many words that are the same - such as "pasture", "star", "lip" and others.

Mar Shimun and the governor exchanged warm greetings during the reception, which offered another indication of the opportunities for friendship and development in the Middle East, ancient Homeland of the Assyrians and their neighbors.

Gold And Silver Patriarchal Staff Sent His Holiness By Church Of India



During August, the gold and silver Patriarchal Staff, presented by the Church of India in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the consecration of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun to the Patriarchal See, was received at Chicago. In the accompanying picture an idea is given of its graceful shape. The exquisite workmanship lavished upon it can only be known by close and careful inspection.

Within the curve is a golden cross, with a jewel in the center. His Holiness the Patriarch, when he returned from a two months sojourn in the mountains of Colorado, expressed himself as deeply moved by the magnificent gift.

He said;

"The staff is beautiful. I am tremendously pleased and appreciate with deep gratitude the love and devotion thus shown by the Church of India."

This branch of the Church, whose history is synonymous with that of the Mother Church of the East, has played a most magnificent part in the glorious history of the Church during the last twenty centuries. It is the earnest prayer of His Holiness that a new era of spiritual growth and missionary expansion is opening before the Church of India, in that great subcontinent of Asia.

This staff will be a constant reminder of the Church of India, and will be used on all appropriate occasions, such as consecrations, ordinations and similar functions.

The Cross of Blessing, presented by the Raphael family, was received on Sept. 11. It is a beautiful cross, which The Patriarch was very glad to receive.

His Holiness sends his blessing to all the clergy and laity of the beloved Church of India and will always remember the love and devotion which they have shown to him on the thirtieth anniversary of his consecration and elevation to the Patriarchal See of the Church of the East.

A CHURCH ON FIRE: History of the Church of the East Published
in India Postage Extra \$2.00

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The Patriarchal Council, Inc.
Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president
Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president
Narsay Serges, secretary-treasurer

God bless you and your Committee to carry on this gigantic Spiritual Service.

Cordially yours,



(T.T. DAVID.) CHIEF CLERK
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
I.P.C. LTD., K-1 STATION
K I R K U K - I R A Q.

KIRKUK, IRAQ
18th September, 1950

SUBSTANTIAL SUMS RECEIVED FOR PAPER

"THE LIGHT FROM THE EAST".
The Patriarchal Council, INC.
6346 N. Sheridan Road,
Chicago, U. S. A.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST acknowledges with thanks receipt of \$200 from the Church in New Britain, Conn., and of \$170 from the Church in Chicago, for support of this publication. These sums supplement money received in subscriptions from all parts of the world, and make it possible to continue the paper without incurring debt.

Dear Sir:

I find it a good opportunity and a high pleasure, in addressing this letter to your honour.

As a member of that Once Universal and Highly Cultured Church of the East; I am moved to see that again it is started in the same lines of Old, and its IMMORTAL LITERATURE revived.

Through this letter I request you to enlist me as a member of your Bi-Monthly Journal, and would be thankful to fill or do the routine of your membership.

In conclusion, I beseech our Heavenly Father, to send His Holy Spirit and help the sons of those Spiritual Giants who carried the tidings of our Saviour where-ever the human beings lived on the face of this Globe.

Beginning with 1951, the subscription price will be \$3.00 per year. And - if possible - the magazine will be published monthly. Extension of the subscription list is the great problem before the readers of LIGHT FROM THE EAST. This is the only magazine in the world published in the Assyrian tongue. It gives information vital to every member and well-wisher of the ancient race and people, as well as concerning the amazing development of the Church of the East, Mother of all Christian churches.

Other American congregations no doubt will soon remit amounts raised by them for LIGHT FROM THE EAST. These will be acknowledged as received.

Yulpana M'Shikaya (Catechism) Of Church Of The East Published

After the labor of years, the Yulpana M'Shikaya, or Christian Doctrine of the Church of the East, has been published, and is now available.

It is a document of 42 pages, and is issued by authority of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII.

Originally written by George M. Lamsa, the text has been carefully edited to bring it into strict compliance with the teachings of the Marganita, or "Pearl", the age-long standard doctrinal work of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East.

This Catechism is of supreme importance to the whole Christian world. For the first time it gives the true teaching of the Church of the East, so often distorted and misrepresented by hostile Imperial Western churches.

It is in such form that any child can understand it.

Every child of every family belonging to this church should begin to learn this Catechism as soon as he is able to speak.

Every family is expected to see that all its members know this teaching, so as to be able to speak with accurate information on any question as to the doctrine of the Church of the East, Mother of all Christian churches, and Light-Bringer of Asia.

At present the Catechism is in mimeographed form. As soon as possible it will be expanded, printed, and made available for the widest distribution.

This Catechism gives the teaching of Christ and his apostles in pure and unadulterated form. May it help to bring the Light of Christ to the whole world.

Correction On Death Of Shah Of Iran

Samuel Kelaita, Visitor General of the Church of the East in Tehran, informs us that a regrettable error was made in the report of the death of His Imperial Majesty the late Shah of Iran.

This demise took place not in Bahrein, as stated in Light from the East, but in Africa. The statement was based on the best information available to us at this time. LIGHT FROM THE EAST regrets this misstatement, and will hope that in the future, all who report events of such importance in far off lands will be more careful.

George M. Lamsa Completes His Translation Of Old Testament

George M. Lamsa, a member of the Patriarchal Council, has just completed the monumental work of translating the Old Testament from the Peshitta Aramaic version into English. This completes his task of rendering the whole of the Holy Bible into this language from the original language of Christ and his apostles.

The Old Testament translation will be published in this country by the A.J. Holman Company of Philadelphia, which has brought out most of his other works on the Holy Scriptures. Another firm will bring it out in Great Britain. Lamsa's Old Testament translation will produce a profound sensation in Biblical circles. Many words in use in the current English versions are shown by Lamsa's work to be completely inaccurate.

Lamsa's translation further confirms the fact that the Church of the East has preserved unaltered the original Scriptures, and that it therefore retains the true Apostolic teaching.

Chaplain Of Patriarchal Family Comes To The United States For Service

The Rev. Iskhaq Rehana, chaplain of the Patriarchal Family in Cyprus for nearly twenty years, reached the United States Aug. 1, in obedience to the summons of His Holiness, Mar Shimun.

He was met at the dock in New York by Gewargis Joseph and Shamasha Khuna Shimoon, of Yonkers, who entertained him at Yonkers. Six hours later they placed him on the train for Chicago, which he reached the following day, and took up residence at the Patriarchate.

During his stay in Chicago he began the writing of a history of the Church of the East, the beginning of which is published in the Assyrian Language section of this edition.

Kashisha Iskhaq will be stationed at New Britain, Conn., as priest of the parish of St. Thomas there. He will take the place of the Rev. Benjamin Sargis, who is returning to his native land of Iraq, where his family resides. Kashisha Sargis has been living in the United States for 22 years. For the last ten years he has been serving the Church in New Britain, where he has done good work.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CHURCH OF THE EAST.

TAKHSA, Liturgy of the Church, in English translation with Aramaic language in English letters \$3.00

QEDEM-WATHAR, Daily Prayers in Aramaic; published by the Mar Narsay press in Trichur, India. \$6.00

YULPANA M'SHIKHAYA, Catechism of the Doctrine of the Church of the East; (In English) Mimeographed; published by permission and authority of the Patriarch \$1.00

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ARAMAIC INSTITUTE OPENS IN TURLOCK.

Much enthusiasm is shown in Turlock, Cal., by the students of the Aramaic Institute, maintained by the Church of the East under the direction of the Rev. Elisha Oushana. Progress is very satisfactory, he reports, and there is a great deal of joy on the part of the parents at the fact that the ancient Language of the Lord is being kept alive in the golden land of California.



ARAMAIC INSTITUTE AT TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA.

On Left; Deacon Youash Kelaita, Behind him is Robert Essa, Teacher of Aramaic, On Right, Kashisha Elisha Oushana, and Mrs. Oushana. behind Mrs. Oushana is Louis Odishoo. In back row, Shamasha Eshoo Sayad, and Keena Yonan.



JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT HAMADAN, IRAN

Photograph of part of the throng which took part in the Jubilee Celebration of the consecration of Mar Eshai Shimun to the patriarchate. In the center are the Rev. Hawil Abraham and Shamasha Eshoo Aprim.

The celebration took the form of a solemn Qurbana Qaddisha, following a procession in which many hundreds joined.

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