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LIGHT FROM THE EAST

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1951

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No. 2

EASTER, The Patriarchal Message

From The Patriarchal Cell Of The Church Of The East.
Prayers & Blessings Received.

"All power has been given unto me in heaven and on earth and just as My Father sent me, I am also sending you."

Many a king, conqueror and prophet has played his allotted role in shaping the destiny of mankind, but no man has or can ever claim a victory so profound as that of the humble Carpenter of Galilee, following his mighty resurrection from the dead. In these words he pronounced the emancipation of the children of Adam from the bondage of Satan and death. The full meaning of the event has been so vividly dramatized by the masterful pen of Mar Narsay, the Harp of the Spirit:

"A new creation the Creator created on the head of Calvary
And showed the greatness of His art in the crucified Man.
A Crucified Man saw the earthly and the heavenly (angels and men)
And they gathered unto Him to witness the Truth that was being
spoken in him."

That truth has been fully manifested by the events of the succeeding centuries. It was manifested through the wonders and miracles worked by his beatified apostles. It has been manifested by the sacrifices of innumerable bands of martyrs and confessors of the church. It has been revealed by the missionary enterprise of His Holy Church, and by the life and work of Christian men and women in the four corners of the globe. It has been further manifested by the tremendous progress made by man in the field of knowledge, whether scientific, cultural or economic.

For we must remember that God is the source of all knowledge, and Christ in freeing man from superstition and fear, opened to him the gate of that knowledge.

We have only to look into the history of the Apostolic and Catholic church of the East to see the tremendous progress made in the field of science through its renowned College of Edessa founded in the early part of the third century A.D., and others that sprung from the same source, such as Nisibin, Beth-Lapat, and numerous other institutions of learning. This knowledge was later acquired by the Arabs, and in turn transmitted through their institutions of learn-

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The Patriarchal Council, Inc.

Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president
Rev. Saul D. Neesan, vice president
Nersay Serjes, secretary-treasurer

Chicago Church Supports

School in Church Of

Three Wise Men

In response to the appeal published in the last issue of LIGHT FROM THE EAST for aid to the village school in Iran, the Episcopal Church of St. Stephen, in Chicago, has undertaken to support the church school in Urmi -- the modern Urumia -- in the church of Mart' Maryam. In English, this is the church of St. Mary the Virgin.

Urmi is one of the most ancient cities in the Middle East. According to the histories of our Church, this Church of Mart' Maryam was built as a place of worship by the three Wise Men -- the Magi -- who travelled to Bethlehem following the brilliant Star that shone in the East, and led them to worship the King of Kings born in the manger in Bethlehem.

This church still stands, and the tomb of the Magi is still there. The church is referred to by Marco Polo, the Italian adventurer and explorer, whose account of the marvels of the East led Christopher Columbus to undertake the voyage that discovered America.

The Rev. S.D. Neesan, archdeacon of the Church of the East, is a native of Urmi and often worshiped in that church. He reports that there are two great blessings associated

with this church; after prayer in it, a mother who is unable to nurse her baby receives sufficient milk to nourish it; and also persons mentally deranged are frequently healed by prayer at that place.

The building is of stone, and is about the size of the Church of Mar Sargis, in Chicago.

It is the second oldest Christian place of worship now in existence. The first, of course, is the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem, enshrining the place where the Savior was born of Mart' Maryam, the blessed Virgin Mary.

It is hoped this example of the church of St. Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, will be followed by other American churches and individuals. Pastor of St. Stephen's is the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, President of the Patriarchal Council.



**HAVE YOU MOVED?
SEND NEW ADDRESS!**

Many papers have been returned to the Patriarchal office because of non-delivery, through changes of address. When any subscriber fails to receive his paper, it is nearly always because of such a change. Unless this office is notified immediately of changes it cannot be responsible for seeing that papers are delivered.

When you move, send your new address at once to the office of Light From the East.

Prosperity Dawns For Assyrians In Khabour Valley

Letters from the Khabour Valley give a very hopeful picture of the situation of the Assyrian colony there. Rains so far have been abundant and promise a good crop.

But the most important news is that the irrigation project undertaken by the government of Syria has been begun, and Assyrian lands are already receiving the benefit of it.

Lands on which the Assyrians were settled by the League of Nations adjoin the headwaters of the Khabour River, and are therefore first to be affected by the irrigation works. Water is already flowing through the first of these canals, bringing great prosperity.

According to these reports, numerous Assyrians who became dissatisfied and left the Khabour, now are eager to return, because of the promising future.

It appears that the growing of cotton will be the chief source of the Assyrians' agricultural income. A number of families who have been cultivating cotton for the past two or three years are increasing their cotton acreage, because of substantial profits.

True Name Of The Church Of The East

A question often asked is; What is the true name of the Church of the East? It has been called by various titles. As the result of divisions which arose within the Roman empire, the Church has been labeled Nestorian, which is only a nickname. It arose in this way; Nestorius was a Patriarch of Constantinople of the Greek Orthodox Church. When his opinions were challenged, he appealed to the Church of the East to prove his views were those of the true church. Because of this appeal, the other factions in the Roman empire, both Greek and Latin, called the true church by his name, just as they themselves have since broken into many factions, and call each other by various nicknames.

Many of its friends, through ignorance of history, have also been in the habit of referring to it as the Nestorian church. Even many of its own children, hearing this name so often used by outsiders, have used it.

The Church of the East, as it is clearly shown by history, was founded by the apostles themselves, all of whom were Semites. The Assyrian people, as a race, had direct contact with Christ himself, through King Abgar of Edessa, who believed in Our Lord while he was still on earth.

The true theological title of the Church of the East is The Holy, Apostolic and Catholic Church.

It is Holy, because it is the Church of Christ, who is Holy.

Apostolic, because it was founded by the Apostles.

Catholic, because it is universal. The word Catholic means universal.

Our church has kept through centuries of persecution the original faith of the apostles and martyrs. But since divisions arose in the Church of the West, the missionary field of our church was chiefly Asia - the whole of Asia. Therefore it came to be known historically as the Church of the East.

At one time its Patriarch, from his seat at Seleucia Ctesiphon, had under him forty-four metropolitan sees and one hundred and ninety-four bishops, all the way from Syria to Peking, including Delhi, Sumatra and the Islands of the Pacific.

An error often is made by speaking of Greek and Russian Orthodox as The Eastern church. This really means that they are the churches of the Eastern part of the Roman Empire. They are not the Church of the East, which still preaches and teaches the Gospel of Our Lord in the same glorious Aramaic tongue in which it originally was preached and written.

Its present head is His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, 119th Patriarch in succession from Mar Shimun Kepa, known to the west as St. Simon Peter, first Patriarch of the East.

Turlock Celebrates First Ordination Anniversary

A first anniversary dinner was given by the Daughters of the Church of the East in honor of the Rev. Elisha K. Oushana and the deacons and sub deacons of the Church here, who were ordained by His Holiness the Patriarch just a year ago.

The deacons are; Eshoo P. Sayad, and Sargis Khoobar. Sub-deacons, Abraham Badal, Keena Yonan, Narsay David and John Zaya.

Friends and guests who attended the dinner enjoyed it and the accompanying program. Great progress made during the year was reported, and plans laid for greater progress in the year to come.

New officers of the Daughters for the year are; President, Mrs. Avesha Yohanan; vice-president, Mrs. Hannah Shipera; Secretary, Mrs. Nellie Badal, treasurer, Mrs. Sam Pera.

Officers of the Youth Association for the coming year are;

President, Paul Nazaar; vice-president, Jesse Yohanan, Secretary, Helen Zaya; treasurer, Robert Tamey.

This group meets twice monthly.

Deaths in Asia

M.O. Thomakutty, trustee of the Chaldaean-Syrian Church of the East in India, reports under date of Dec. 18, 1950;

"I report to Your Holiness the sad demise of Mr. Francis Chandy a few days back. He was a trustee of the church, and was one who had sincerely worked for the good of the church. It would indeed be a good thing to pray for the peace of his soul."

From Iraq Archdeacon Akhiqar reports the death of Lazar Markos beth Mar Yonan, on Wednesday Feb. 15. He was sick only seven days. The archdeacon writes; "He had a very happy end. May God grant him eternal rest. His son, Zechariah Lazar, one of our most zealous young men, and is here with us."

Greetings To The Shah

Feb. 13, 1951

His Imperial Majesty, the Shah-in-Shah, Tehran, Iran. We wish to congratulate Your Majesty on this happy occasion of your wedding, and pray God to grant you a happy and prosperous reign.

Mar Shimun, Catholicos Patriarch of the East.

In reply, the following was received;
To Mar Shimun, Chicago.

By his Imperial Majesty's order I have pleasure in conveying to you His Majesty's best appreciation of your kind wishes on the occasion of his marriage.

Hossein Shokouh,

His Imperial Majesty's Chief of Cabinet

From Hashemite Jordan

Dr. Petros de' Baz, of Irbid, in the kingdom of the Jordan, who has been for a number of years specializing in treatment of internal tropical diseases, has received a copy of this paper. He writes; "Please continue sending me LIGHT FROM THE EAST. I appreciate reading your paper, which is unique in that it gives us full information about our compatriots all over the world. It is well written, and I congratulate you for it. I thank you also for the Takhsa. It is very good for those Assyrians who do not read Syriac. Would it be possible to publish it in our language also? I have two cousins in Chicago, Shmuel and Kaiser. Please remember me to them."

Beauties Of The Lord's Language

One of the most beautiful features of Aramaic, the Lord's language, is the way nouns are formed. In English, a noun frequently is made by adding to an adjective the termination "ness".

Good--goodness. Glad--gladness. Big--bigness.

In like manner Aramaic uses the termination "--utha".

Rabbah, big--rabbutha, bigness.

Malka, king; malkutha, kingness, or as we would say kingdom.

"D'dilakh hee malkutha, u-khaila, u-tishbukhta, l'alam almeen, Ameen."

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, to ages of ages, Amen."

In like manner; God, Alaha. Godness, Godhead--Alahutha.

Nasha, man; nashutha, manhood.

Mara, Lord. Marya, The Lord. Marutha, Lordship.

Tlatha, three; tlithayutha, threeness--Trinity.

"Node, Mar, l'Alahuthakh, u-nisgud l'Maruthakh; shubhkha ammeena d'la shalwa nasiq l'Tlithayuthakh m'shabakhtha."

"We confess, O my Lord, thy Godhead, and we worship thy Lordship; true glory without ceasing we lift up to thy glorious Trinity."

The verb sahad, witness; sahadutha, testimony. Jegar-Sahadutha, the Stone of Testimony. Sahday, witnesses--martyrs.

Ba'a, ask. Ba'utha, asking, petition. "Baeenan minnakh" we pray thee."

Rabbah, great. Rabbutha, greatness.

"Damleen shmaya u-araa rabbuth-shubhkhakh" Heaven and earth are full of the greatness of thy glory".

Tab, good. Taybutha, goodness, grace, kindness.

Qaddish, holy. Qaddishutha, holiness.

Zaddiq, righteous. Zaddiqutha, righteousness.

Nuhra, light. Nahirutha, enlightenment.

Khishakh, dark. Khishukhutha, darkness.

Khadith, new. Khudutha, newness.

Shlikha, apostle. Shlikutha, apostleship. Shlikhaya, apostolic.

There is a way of emphasizing a word by doubling it. As a child would say "big--big" to indicate extreme size, so the Aramaic says;

Ram, high. Ramram, very high.

Rabbah, big. Rabrab, very big. Rabrabaney--(rorwaney) the exalted ones

Ragh, desire. Raghragh, desire very greatly.

"Sakyat nosh u-ithraghraghat l'darow l'Marya."

"My soul desires and greatly longs for the courts of the Lord," in Sunday evensong.

News From Iran

The Rev. Habil Abraham, son of Kashisha Abraham, priest of the Church of the East in Hamadan, Iran, writes that members of the Church in Hamadan are keen in their zeal, and faithful to the church of their forefathers. He and the deacons are energetically carrying on the work of the church there.

He reports the church in Tehran, under the liberal rule of the government of Iran, is doing well. Great interest is expressed in LIGHT FROM THE EAST, which brings them the Patriarchal epistles and news of the world community. There has been some difficulty in the past in obtaining copies, but these difficulties are being smoothed out.

Subscription Campaign Thriving In Iraq

In response to the letter of Narsay Serges, secretary of the Patriarchal Council, Kashisha Gabriel Sulaiman, of the Church of the East in the camp of Gailani, in Baghdad, writes;

"I wish to report that fifty copies of LIGHT FROM THE EAST have reached us. I entrusted them as requested to Joel Abraham Baba. We are extremely grateful for LIGHT FROM THE EAST, which is like a light in a dark house, by which everything that was invisible has become visible. For until now we were ignorant of the affairs of our Church throughout the world. But LIGHT FROM THE EAST tells us of happenings in all the different dioceses and parishes, also what is happening in the educational field, erection of new churches, and so forth. As a result we hear and see that our people in general during this period have been greatly encouraged and filled with new zeal for the performance of their church duties.

"We are especially grateful to the Iraqi government, which has never refused to give permission for us to raise money for the erection of churches, schools, and all other religious necessities."

Archdeacon Akhigar, of Margil, writes, also in response to Secretary Serges' letter;

"Your letter of last Dec. 11 has reached me. We were very glad to receive it. We have also received the fifty copies of LIGHT FROM THE EAST, I am especially grateful to Yonadam Giwargis, of Gawar, and Joel Kaiser, of Baz. These two men have helped greatly in the selling of these papers. We have now forty subscribers, all of whom have paid up, which makes a total of 42 pounds, 500 fils. These we will send His Grace, Mar Yosip, the Metropolitan and Patriarchal apostolic delegate of Iraq. I feel certain you will hear also from the Metropolitan himself.

We shall be very grateful if you will regularly send this paper to us without delay, in bundles, and we shall try to get more subscribers."

National Geographic Magazine Publishes Wonderful Tribute To Land Of Beth-Nahreen

In the January number of National Geographic Magazine, almost half the space is taken up with a wonderful tribute to the people of Mesopotamia, our Beth-Nahreen.

Illustrated with pictures in color and with photographs, this article makes the heart of every descendant of the ancient Homeland swell with pride.

Author of this remarkable history is E.A. Speiser, formerly director of the American School of Oriental Research in Baghdad, now chairman of the Department of Oriental Studies in the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1926 he obtained a Guggenheim Fellowship for study in Mesopotamia. In April, 1927, he was attracted by the great mound known as Tepe Gawra, which rose 75 feet above the surrounding plain, near Mosul. Digging began that same year, and is still proceeding. Level after level was uncovered, bringing knowledge of the history of Beth-Nahreen as far back as 3,000 years before Christ.

In this and other excavations Prof. Speiser found proof that a totally new view of history must be taken.

Chief of his discoveries is the democratic nature of the government both in Babylon and Assyria. Democracy was born there. Even the king had to observe the law. He could take no action of importance without the consent of his council.

Equality of individuals before the laws of gods and men was a keynote of that ancient civilization. In Egypt the king was a god; his will was the law. But in Beth-Nahreen, the king had to obey the law.

Prof. Speiser shows that not only democracy, but the very concept of law, originated in Assyria. Writing also was invented there. The first letters came from Assyria. Arithmetic began there; astronomy began there; natural philosophy began there.

All these things, so fervently believed by children of Beth-Nahreen all these centuries, are proved and demonstrated by indisputable evidence of the records uncovered in these mounds left untouched for so many centuries.

Prof. Speiser concludes his stirring article;

"The ideals that have sustained mankind to this day are in many ways the same ideals that were tested and refined in the magnificent laboratory which Mesopotamia maintained during the thousands of years of its historic progress."

Our greatest debt to Mesopotamia, he says, are not the wheel and the true arch, the razors and cosmetic sets and frying pans, neither shepherds, pipes nor princely harps, nor the dials which originated in the Land of the Two Rivers. No, he adds;

"What are really vital are Law and Writing, and beyond these the abiding sense of the rights and obligations of the individual in a changing and dramatic world--pointing a way to hope in our man's struggle for civilization. We are only beginning to appreciate the role of Mesopotamia in this epic struggle."

Paintings illustrating this splendid article are the work of H.M. Herget, who spent years in familiarizing himself with every detail of the costumes, customs and arts revealed in the excavations in Mesopotamia.

The Assyrian nation owes a special debt of gratitude to the National Geographic Magazine. Reprints of this splendid article may be obtained from the Patriarchal Council.

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לשנת תשנ"א נאמר על ידי משרד המשפטים, משרד הכלכלה ומשרד הבריאות, כי תחילת שנת 1951 תהיה שנת תשנ"א. המסלול הכלכלי של השנה יבוא לידי ביטוי במסלול התקציב, אשר יוגש לקראת סוף השנה. המסלול הכלכלי של השנה יבוא לידי ביטוי במסלול התקציב, אשר יוגש לקראת סוף השנה. המסלול הכלכלי של השנה יבוא לידי ביטוי במסלול התקציב, אשר יוגש לקראת סוף השנה.

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