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LIGHT FROM THE EAST

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1952

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NO. 5

**PATRIARCH'S TRIP TO
NEW BRITAIN AND CYPRUS**

On June 29, His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, left for New Britain, Connecticut, where he had been requested by the congregation to launch a building fund campaign. The Patriarch celebrated Qurbana Quaddisha on Sunday, July 6, at St. Marks Episcopal Church. After communion a breakfast was served at the parish house by the Daughters of the Church of the East.

In the evening His Holiness addressed the congregation at a mass meeting. The Patriarch requested the members to co-operate with the building committee in every respect. Other speakers were Rev. Saul D. Neesan, Deacon Yonan Jones, and Frank Yonan, chairman of the building committee. During the Patriarch's absence the question will be followed up vigorously by the parish priest and the building committee.

On August 5, His Holiness left for Cyprus to visit his mother and the rest of the Patriarchal family. This will be a joyful re-union, as His Holiness has not seen them for thirteen (13) years. Enroute to Cyprus he will also visit England to see old friends.

SERMON DELIVERED BY HIS HOLINESS, MAR ESHAI SHIMUN ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONSECRATION OF ARCHDEACON MANSOUR ELISHA DARMO, AS METROPOLITAN OF MALABAR AND INDIA, ON MAY 4, 1952, IN THE CHURCH OF MAR ADDAI SHLIKHA IN TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA. THE SERMON WAS BROADCAST TWICE ON THE LOCAL RADIO.

PART II GROWTH AND EXPANSION

The missionary enterprise of this major branch of the one Apostolic and Catholic church, which for centuries far surpassed in numbers and territorial expansion the combined Christianity of the Roman Empire, will always remain the most remarkable achievement in the annals of Christian history.

Among the chief factors which made the Christian gospel more easily understood and accepted by the Assyrians than by other races, is the fact that the Christian faith is of a Semitic origin and revealed through prophecies in that language, namely; the Aramaic, a language common to both the Assyrians and the Jews in the time of Christ, and indeed to this day spoken also by the Jews in the Middle East. The scriptures which were written in that same language by the Apostles themselves, are to this day preserved in the Church of the East in the original without the change of one iota, nor has any revision ever been considered necessary, as has been the case in the west; for the simple reason there are no passages of obscure meaning as are to be found in other versions which are translations of translations.

By the year 90 A.D. this ancient church already had nineteen episcopal sees, all the way from Mesopotamia, to the Caspian Sea and India. About this same time, that is towards the end of the first and the middle of the Second Century A.D., the influence of the Catholic Church of the East extended all the way to Rome. All the Fathers of the early Christian Church in Rome, later known as the Latin Church, such as Tatian, The Assyrian, Yostinos (Justin Martyr), Organon (origin), Melito, Irenaeus, and others that followed St. Paul to that great capital of the west, were all Assyrians or Syrians, Aramaic speaking peoples, missionaries of the Church of the East. These and others like them were supposed to be the founders of the Celtic Church.

PERSECUTIONS

The adoption of the Christian faith by Constantine brought about the antipathy of Zoroaster, priesthood, against the Christians within the Persian Empire, and finally succeeded in rousing the suspicion of the emperor against the Christians within His domain. The final test of the inspiring faith of these Christians came in the year 339 A.D. The Catholicos Patriarch of the day, Mar Shimun Bar Sabai, was ordered by the emperor to collect the double tax imposed upon the Christians to pay for the costs of war with the Roman Empire. This the Patriarch refused to do on the grounds that he was no tax collector and that his flock had already been heavily taxed. His immediate arrest followed and the persecution was set in motion. He was offered by the emperor not only freedom for himself but for his people, if he would worship the sun only once. "The sun went into mourning when its Lord and Creator died," said Mar Shimun. Then he begged in the name of their personal friendship to yield, but the Catholicos remained firm, and on the morning of the first day of the feast of leavened bread along with five bishops and a hundred clergy and other faithful, he sealed his testimony with his blood.

This persecution lasted forty years and was followed by others, though of shorter duration but of greater severity. During this period the greatest hymns written on martyrs were composed and they are in use in the church to this day.

One of the events which most befits to be recalled on this sacred occasion is the persecution which took place under emperor Yezd'gar, known as the wicked, in the year 448 A.D. This persecution was general and of great intensity. We have a detailed account of the martyrdoms which took place in Karkha Dbeth Slukh, now known as Kirkuk, in Iraq. On a mound outside the city, ten bishops and 153,000 others suffered martyrdom for their faith in Christ. The redness of the gravel of the hillock in contrast to the surrounding soil is said to have been caused by the blood of the martyrs. Among the many stirring accounts of the bravery and joy of these martyrs, is the one related to the martyrdom of Yokhanan (John) the Metropolitan of Karkha. When he was being led to his death, a youth by the name of Dadwi, urged him to be of good cheer. "Shut your eyes and you will soon be with Christ." said the youth. John, turning to him declared that he was fit to be a bishop in his stead, and there on the site of martyrdom he laid his hands on him and consecrated him a bishop. The youth, however, exercised the office for one or two days when he also received the crown of martyrdom. This is only one of the many instances where bishops aware of their impending martyrdom, consecrated others to carry on the apostolic succession and thus administer to the flock of Jesus, truly faithful to their Master's command to take their cross and follow him.

The number of the members of this Apostolic church who suffered martyrdom during centuries of Christian history can literally be counted in millions. I often think, how many Christians would there be in the west today had they passed through the same experience? How would the American people today react in similar circumstances?

John Stewart, author of the "Nestorian Missionary Enterprise" speaking of these martyrs says: "No where in the history of the Christian Church is there any body of men and women to whom may be more fittingly applied the words of Hebrews 12. 33-38: "Who through faith conquered kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of the weakness were made strong; restored to women their sons, raised from the dead; while others died through tortures, not hoping for deliverance; that they might have a better resurrection. Others endured mockings and scourgings, still others were delivered to bonds and imprisonment. Others were stoned, others were sawn apart, others died by the edge of the sword; others wandered about, wearing sheepskins and goat skins; destitute, afflicted, and tormented; of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered as though lost in the desert and in mountains, and in dens and in caves of the earth."

It has been said that the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church. These persecutions instead of quenching the zeal of the faithful rather intensified it.

Converts by thousands were being secretly baptized, and yet others both of low and high estate, often the perpetrators of the persecution themselves, believed and confessed in Christ and were then and there baptized in their own blood through martyrdom. This period marks the greatest surge in missionary enterprise of the church. These persecuted men and women took refuge in countries beyond the borders of the Persian Empire, and wherever they went they were one and all the missionaries of the cross.

Speaking about the missionary enterprise of this ancient church, John Stuart says, "The amazing thing is not where they went, but rather where did they not go?"

The Encyclopaedia Britannica, speaking about the expansion of the Church of the East says: "Their campaign was one of deliberate conquest, and one of the greatest ever planned by Christian missionaries. Their activity may well be said to have covered the continent of Asia!

These activities extended all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and churches, Monastic institutions and colleges were to be found all the way from Baghdad to Peking. The famous so called "Nestorian Monument in China" of Sinafu, in China, was erected by the end of the 7th Century A.D. during the Patriarchate of Mar Khanishoo, to commemorate the Fifth Century of the establishment of the Church in China. This monument is inscribed in both Aramaic and Chinese languages.

About thirty metropolitan sees and over two hundred bishops, those whose locations are known to this day, were established all over Asia. The Emperor of China, Tartar Khans, Indian Rajas, and Empress Suiku of Japan, were listed among the converts of these missionaries. It has been said that the Roman missionaries in China had been stalemated in their efforts to convert a sizeable number of Chinese until the Seventeenth Century when the Church of the East Monument which had been lost for centuries was discovered accidentally by a Chinese digging a foundation for a house. The effect of this discovery was so great that thousands of Chinese of all walks of life became Christians. As late as the Thirteenth Century when the Church had greatly declined, Marco Polo, the Italian traveler, speaks of finding churches and bishops of this church where ever he went all over Asia.

To be continued.



HIS GRACE ARRIVES AT BOMBAY

Left, Rev. Kasheesa C. I. Antony Right, M. O. Thomakutty, Trustee and Chairman of the Reception Committee.



RECEPTION AT THE CENTRAL Y. M. C. A. BOMBAY

Left to Right: J. S. S. Malelu, President Y.M.C.A.; Shri Ganapathy Shankar Desai, the Mayor of Bombay; K. S. Abraham, President, Malabar Christian Assoc.; His Grace; Rev. James Kellock, Principal, Wilson College; Shri. Morarji Desai, The Honorable Chief Minister of Bombay; Shri. R. A. Poddar, Sheriff of Bombay.



PROCESSION TO THE BIG CHURCH

**WELCOME OF HIS GRACE, MAR TOOMA
METROPOLITAN OF MALABAR AND INDIA**

BY M. O. THOMAKUTTY
TRUSTEE, CHALDEAN SYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST, TRICHUR

In the first place I beg Your Holiness to be pleased to excuse me for the delay that has occurred in the submission of this report. I had to go to Bombay in connection with the arrival of His Grace and ever since my return I was so busy with the other arrangements that I could not attend to this. I request that Your Holiness may be pleased to excuse this short delay.

It was with feelings of great joy and jubilation that we received the news of the consecration of His Grace Mar Tooma as Metropolitan of Malabar and India of the Church of the East to succeed the late lamented Metropolitan Mar Thimotheus; and all of us were eagerly and anxiously waiting for the information as to the exact date of arrival of His Grace in India. Your Holiness' telegram informing us that His Grace will land in Bombay on the 17th June 1952 at 4-30 p.m. put a stop to the suspense and anxiety that had been agitating the minds of the people and a new vigour of joy and hope was visible on everyone.

As soon as the information regarding the selection of the candidate for the consecration as Metropolitan was communicated to us we had begun elaborate arrangements to accord a fitting reception consistent with his status and dignity and a Metropolitan Reception Central Committee was formed with Mr. M. O. Thomakutty, Trustee of the Church, as Chairman. When the exact date of the arrival of His Grace was known the whole machine set in motion with an accuracy and speed that was unsurpassed and everything was finalised to perfection in time.

Rev. Kasheesha C. I. Antony and Mr. M. O. Thomakutty, Trustee and Chairman of the Reception Committee, were deputed to Bombay to receive His Grace. A few other prominent members of the community also accompanied them to Bombay. Thanks to the presence of Messrs. N.P. Lazarus and N. V. Ittiachen, two members of our community already employed in Bombay, they were able to secure the kind cooperation of the Malabar Christian Association in Bombay and arrange a grand and rousing reception to His Grace at the Santa Cruz Airport and also another public reception at the Central Y.M.C.A. Bombay.

The anxious crowd was waiting and at last to the satisfaction and joy of all, His Grace landed from the plane. As His Grace alighted from the plane Press cameramen were busy clicking their cameras. On alighting from the plane Rev. Kasheesha C. I. Antony garlanded His Grace. After that Mr. M. O. Thomakutty garlanded His Grace with the gold chain and cross weighing 45 sovereigns. This cross and chain was purchased by him from the Church and presented to His Grace as his gift.

All the people who had assembled there came and paid their humble respects to His Grace and kissed his hand and obtained his blessings. It is also worthy of mention that several respectable Syrian Christian ladies had also come to the Aerodrome to see His Grace and receive his blessings. Nearly 1,000 people had assembled and waited in the Aerodrome in spite of the inconvenience caused by the late arrival of the plane. His Grace was deeply impressed with the warm and rousing reception given at the Airport.

As soon as His Grace landed at Santa Cruz Airport, the news was flashed by the Press Trust of India Ltd., the most important News Agency in India, throughout the country. An eager and expectant crowd had already assembled in the premises of the Church at Trichur. As the plane was expected to arrive at 4-30 p.m. they had become impatient in the absence of any news till 8-15 p.m. It was at such a critical moment that the glad news of the arrival of His Grace broadcast by the P.T.I. was received by the people at Trichur; and this happy news was announced to the sleeping thousands by the reverberating sounds of crackers, pop guns and dynamites that were lit and fired at the moment. The whole town of Trichur awoke and received the glad tidings of the arrival of His Grace in Bombay, the Gate Way of India.

After having completed the Customs formalities His Grace accompanied by Rev. Kasheesa C. I. Antony was taken to the Bishop's House at Colaba, Bombay. Rt. Rev. William Lash, Bishop of Bombay (Anglican Church) had kindly offered to receive His Grace as his guest during His Grace's stay at Bombay.

A most interesting and grand function took place at 6 p.m. on Thursday the 19th June at the Central Y.M.C.A. Bombay. This was the public reception accorded to His Grace by the Malabar Christian Association, Bombay. Rt. Rev. William Lash, Bishop of Bombay, presided over the meeting. Shri Morarji Desai, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bombay, Shri Ganapathy Shankar Desai, the Mayor of Bombay, Shri R. A. Poddar, the Sheriff of Bombay, Rev. James Kellock, Principal, Wilson College, Bombay, were among the distinguished guests. A large and influential gathering had responded to the invitation and the hall was packed to capacity.

Light refreshments were also served to the guests. His Grace was also introduced to the Chief Minister of Bombay, the Mayor of Bombay, the Sheriff of Bombay and the other distinguished guests.

On Friday the 20th of June, 1952 His Grace left for Trichur by the Madras Express at 2 p.m. The Secretaries of the Malabar Christian Association and other distinguished Syrian Christians were present at the Victoria Terminus to bid farewell to His Grace. His Grace was profusely garlanded. His Grace thanked all those who had assembled there for the kindness shown and honour done to him.

During the course of the journey His Grace had the pleasure to receive greetings and garlands from members of the Church at all important junctions, the most important of them being Poona, Guntakal and Arkonam.

The next stop was at Shoranur where His Grace got down from the train for his entry to Cochin territory. At Shoranur, the Clergy, the Trustee and all the prominent members of the community were present. As soon as the train reached the platform the huge crowd present at the station shouted cheers to His Grace. His Grace alighted from the train, and was garlanded by the Trustee and many other prominent members of the Church. His Grace rested for some time and had his breakfast also. After that His Grace was introduced to all the prominent personalities present at the station, the most prominent of whom was Mr. K. C. Maman Mapillai, an 80 year old veteran Syrian Christian leader of Kottayam and the Editor of a leading Malayalam Daily "Malayala Manorama" with a standing of more than 60 years. He had come all the way from Kottayam to pay his humble respects to His Grace.

At 4-30 p.m. His Grace reached "Patturaikal", the northernmost limit of the Trichur town where His Grace was received and garlanded by the Chairman of the Trichur Municipal Council. Then His Grace was also garlanded by M. O. Thomakutty, the Trustee of the Church. His Grace's car, accompanied by more

than 100 cars, proceeded straight up to the heart of the town -- a place called Manikantanal from where the regular procession to the Church was to commence. As soon as His Grace reached this place a salute of 1001 pop guns and a large quantity of crackers were fired. Here His Grace was garlanded by several organizations and individuals. The peculiar feature of the reception here was that representative organizations belonging to other castes and creeds -- even Hindus and Muslims -- paid their respects to His Grace and garlanded him. The whole reception thus gained a cosmopolitan outlook which has undoubtedly enhanced the splendour and grandeur of the occasion.

After the garlanding was over His Grace put on his official ceremonial robes and was seated in a specially decorated car with a raised seat so as to be easily visible to all persons.

It is not an exaggeration to say that such a grand procession with so vast a crowd had never taken place in this town. Though the crowd was large the procession was quite orderly and well controlled, thanks to the excellent work of our volunteers strengthened by the Police also. From "Patturaikal", the northern limits of the town to the Church, both sides of the roads were crowded with men and women so much so that the whole scene appeared to be a moving mass of human sea. According to modest estimates the crowd is estimated to be more than a lakh and a half (150,000).

The procession ended when it reached the Church precincts; His Grace entered the portals of the Church and offered thanks and prayers to God Almighty.

At 7-30 p.m. the public meeting commenced in a huge "Pandal" (Pavillion) erected for this purpose. The Pandal was gaily decorated and beautifully illuminated. The "Pandal" was the biggest ever erected for such purposes with seating capacity of nearly 10,000. The Honourable Ministers of the Travancore-Cochin Government and three Judges of the High Court including the Chief Justice adorned the Presidential Dais. Besides these, there were many distinguished gentlemen of all communities, castes, and creeds. The "Pandal" and the whole compound was fully packed with men and women. An address of welcome was read and presented to His Grace by M. O. Thomakutty, Trustee and Chairman of the Reception Committee. The Address, printed in silk, was enclosed in a beautiful silver casket -- a replica of the Big Church engraved in silver. His Grace made a fitting and brief reply to the Address.

After the meeting was over a Banquet was also held in honour of the Metropolitan in which the Hon'ble Ministers of the Government and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and a few other high officers of the Government attended. The day's celebrations ended with the display of beautiful and attractive fire-works.

On Tuesday June 24th a Civic Address was presented to His Grace by the Municipal Council of Trichur. His Grace was taken in a procession to the Municipal Office. The Address was read and presented by the Chairman of the Municipality. His Grace thanked the Municipality for the honour done to him.

On Sunday June 29th His Grace celebrated the Holy Kurbana. There was a record crowd of more than 6,000 to witness the Holy Kurbana and more than 2,500 received the Holy Communion. After the Kurbana, the poor and the needy were fed. This was a contribution by a prominent member of the community, Shri A. Paul Perincheri.

Reply of His Grace to the Welcome Address Presented by the Clergy, the Trustee and the Laity of the Church.

Your Lordships, Honourable Ministers, my brothers and sisters, who have assembled here to welcome and receive me to this country,

I am very glad to be with you. Praise be to God who has spared my life for 48 years for this occasion. It was in 1921 that His Grace, the late Mar Thimotheus, ordained me a Deacon during his stay in Mosul for a short period. I did not, at that time, think that I will have to see this Metropolitan See without a shepherd; much less that I will be chosen to succeed His Grace. Now for the last seven years, during which the Church in India was without Episcopal guidance and supervision, many troubles and difficulties had to be faced in choosing a person to this office. That, I think, was because God had not yet prepared the person for that very responsible post. As a result of your prayers and beseechings, and in the fullness of time, God is pleased to choose me, a servant of the Holy Church, to work in India among you, and I am thankful to God for the opportunity He has given to me to live and work among you and die with you.

Mar Thimotheus, of revered memory, was a great soul and a great worker. I pray God that He may be pleased to give me the strength and light to follow his footsteps so that I may complete the great work begun by him.

Peace be to all of you, my brethren in Christ. I thank you for the love you have shown and the great honour done to me in coming together so enthusiastically to greet me, and I feel that I am one among you and not an alien among you. I assure you that I have left my brothers and sisters and relatives in a land thousands of miles away and have come to serve you, my brothers and sisters, in India. When I left them, I did so once and for all and I have now become one among you. Hereafter we will raise our eyes to Heaven together and work shoulder to shoulder so that His will will be done on earth. You should love each other as is written in the Holy Books. With this love we will be able to fulfill the wish of the Saviour and reap a full harvest. It is only then that we can be called Christians and avoid being counted with the flock on His left. So the first step we should take to ensure this harvest is to sow the seed. A Seminary is the seed wherefrom the deacons, priests and bishops have to take life. Then only will we realize that we are Christians and that we belong to a Church. Unless the seed is sown we cannot reap; and if you do not work and prepare the ground we cannot live also. IF THERE ARE no priests there is no church. Mar Thimotheus has left us and we cannot see him again. Mar Thoma also will follow him after some years, and you cannot see Mar Thoma also; but the Church must go on. So again, praise God for the continuity of the Church and for this purpose we shall start the Seminary now and work and pray that God will make the Church grow and flourish as it did in the olden days in India, China and Japan. There was a time, as you have stated in your address, when the Church of the East was bigger than all the other Christian churches put together. But, brethren, you see how few we are now. I assure you that we become weaker and weaker because we are keeping ourselves away from the Church and the Lord. Where now the members of our Church in all the countries are counted in thousands, there was a time when they were counted in millions. It is, therefore, your duty, brothers and sisters, to pray to God and be honest and love one another more and more to do the things that are liked by God for the betterment of our Church.

I note with pleasure your assurance of allegiance to the Holy See of the Patriarchate of the Church of the East. His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, is a great leader, of inspiring energy and action. I may assure you that in His Holiness

we have a great spiritual Father who will be able to steer the ship through the troubled waters and land us in the Heaven for which we all aspire. ON THIS OCCASION I would like to pay my respectful homage to His Holiness for having selected my poor self to this responsible post, and I assure His Holiness that it will be my endeavour to look after the flock entrusted to my care to the best of my ability. May God help me. I think I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the great help done to our Church by the Government of India and Travancore -Cochin. India is a country noted for its religious toleration and I am glad to see that the Governments of your Country have been kind and sympathetic. I HOPE and trust that they will extend the same kindness and sympathy to me also.

I am also glad to note your assurance of help and cooperation. No man, however great he may be, can succeed if the congregation does not lend a helping hand. I would appeal to you all to end all differences and unite for the cause of the Church which is your paramount duty. As you wish and pray, let this church be a beacon light and be a Redeemer of the lost and an Enlightener of all. May God help and lead us to that consummation.



ASSYRIAN GIRLS CELEBRATE "KALOO SULAKA" AT HABBANIYA
By Minashi Khammoo Piyous

As customary, the Habbaniya Assyrian girls celebrated the Ascension Day, "Sulaka", at the R. A. F. Employees' (Assyrian) Club, Habbaniya, Iraq, at the end of May. The holiday was celebrated with a tea and fruit party, which 80 girls and some women and children attended.

The party started off in the late afternoon and in the early evening a number of boys (club members) joined the party. There was gay dancing -- both national and Western styles -- to the music of the Habbaniya Assyrian Dance Band until 11:00 p.m.

"Sulaka", as every Assyrian should know, is an annual holiday celebrated by Assyrian girls. Normally, parties of three or more dress a beautiful maiden as a bride (which symbolizes the Church or Christianity) and show her around from house to house in the morning, collecting a monetary contribution or some dry rations from each house. These collections are used for the "Kaloo Sulaka" party which is held in the late afternoon.

At Habbaniya this custom, however, is now practiced by little girls only. During the recent years the practice has been for all mature girls to form into one big group. Each of the girls contributes a small sum of money and the proceeds are spent on the necessary provisions for the celebration.

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SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

The above photos are of Rev. Leon Harris, and of the All Saints Episcopal Church of San Francisco. Rev. Harris has been kind enough to allow Rev. Eshoo Sayad and our San Francisco parish to use the church whenever necessary. The "Light from the East" wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Rev. Harris.

NEW BRITAIN NEWS BY AGNES SARGIS

Mr. Sargis Sargis of Bristol, Connecticut, passed away on May 28th. Funeral Services were held on May 30th and were conducted by the Rev. S.D. Neesan. Burial was at the St. Thomas Assyrian Cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Sophia Sargis, a daughter Julia and a son Albert. St. Thomas Parish has lost a loyal lifetime member. May he rest in peace.

On June 14th at 3 P.M. Miss Helen Barsam, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Barsam B. Barsam of Worcester, Massachusetts, became the bride of Mr. Daniel George, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lazar George of S. Quaker Lane, West Hartford, Connecticut. The ceremony was performed at St. Marks Church, New Britain, by the Rev. S. D. Neesan.

The wedding of Miss Helen Sargis, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Sargis of 63 Gridley St., Bristol, Connecticut, and Samson Hormis, son of Mrs. Goolnar Hormis and the late Joseph Hormis of 47 Armistice St., New Britain, took place at 10:00 A. M. on June 21st at St. Marks Church in New Britain, Connecticut. The Rev. S. D. Neesan officiated.

The Sunday School of the Parish had their annual outing on June 25th at Lake Compounce, Bristol, Connecticut. Many of the mothers also attended and a good time was had by all.

A picnic was given on June 29th by the trustees of the Church. Due to the fact that it rained, this affair had to be held indoors. However, it proved to be quite successful, both socially and financially.

Visiting in New Britain recently were Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sutcliffe, parents of Kasha Harry Sutcliffe of Chicago.

The following have been elected as officers of the Junior Youth Organization:

President..... Fred Pera
Vice-President, Mary Ann Benjamin
Secretary..... Annette Sargis
Treasurer..... Gerald Joseph

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR YOUTH

In April, the Junior group of St. Thomas Parish was organized under the auspices of the Senior Youth. Fifteen persons were enrolled at the first meeting and we are endeavoring to increase our membership to work for the betterment of our beloved Church. Indeed, thanks should go to our parents who have worked hard to preserve this priceless inheritance for us. We are most thankful to them. We do realize that in many instances there has been discord and misunderstanding among our elders. Nevertheless, through their tireless efforts we, their descendants, are happy to announce that we embrace the faith of our fathers.

Mary Ann Benjamin

CHICAGO NEWS
By NARSAY J. SERGES

On July 27th a mass meeting was held at the new church of the Church of the East of Chicago. The meeting was conducted by Narsay J. Serges. Speakers were His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, Rev. Isaac Rehana and Jack Bookie. Before the members were asked for donations, it was announced that \$9,000 has been transferred to the building fund from the church treasury. Jack Bookie pledged \$1,000 on behalf of the Youth Organization. His Holiness inspired the audience with a generous pledge, after which the members helped to increase the total amount to \$21,000.

The church has been purchased for \$43,000: \$25,000 must be paid by November 1st, and the balance in five years.

The church is of brick structure and is located in the north side residential district. It has a seating capacity of 500 people and is equipped with an organ and a special seating section for the choir. The basement is ideal for social functions and will seat approximately 250 people.

A building committee has been appointed by the Patriarch to collect the promised pledges and to obtain additional donations. The members of this committee are: Alex Warda, Treasurer; Narsay J. Serges, Secretary; Sam Aziz; Jack Bookie; Albert Joseph and Joel Pera.

We are proud that we finally have a place of worship worthy of the Patriarchal See. We thank God for this blessing and pledge ourselves to work faithfully to make this transaction a tremendous success.

On July 13th a picnic was held by the Youth Organization. The profit of \$540.00 was pledged to the new church building fund.

On August 3rd a picnic was held by the Church, and a net profit of \$534.00 was realized. Congratulations to all who helped to make this affair so successful.

On August 6th the Youth Organization had a surprise birthday party for Rev. Harry Sutcliffe.

On August 16th the Youth Organization held its first annual dance at the Parkway Hotel. Approximately 400 people attended the affair, and comments ranged from "Wonderful" to "the best dance I have ever attended." Through the diligent efforts and cooperation of the 45 club members, a profit of \$425 was realized. With this amount, plus previous income, the Youth Club is now able to meet its pledge of \$1,000 to the new church building fund.

On Saturday, August 23rd, Joseph Azoo and Ruby Lynch were united in holy matrimony by Rev. Isaac Rehana. They were the first couple to be married in the new church. The reception was held at the Sherman Hotel.

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