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# LIGHT FROM THE EAST

FEB. - MARCH 1954

VOL. 7

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NO. 2

## PATRIARCH'S VISIT TO THE EAST

On Jan. 5, His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, left Chicago for a pastoral visit to the parishes in the east. Next day His Holiness arrived in New York and was met at the Grand Central Station by the Ven. Archdeacon Saul D. Neesan and Absalom Jacob, President of the New Britain Church Committee.

He was then driven to New Britain, Conn. On Jan. 7, Christmas Day, the Patriarch celebrated Qurbana Qaddisha in Mar Tooma parish house. On Sunday, Jan. 10, the Patriarch again celebrated the Qurbana and delivered a short sermon on the gospel for the occasion, in its application to the problems of our day. He exhorted the clergy and laity to the fulfillment of their respective duties.

Following the Qurbana, a breakfast was given by the Daughters of the Church of the East. During his five-day stay in New Britain, His Holiness had a full schedule reviewing the various questions pertaining to the welfare of the parish. His Holiness was also a guest, and blessed the homes of Shamasha Yonan Yonathan, Absalom Jacobs, Petros Baba, Lazar George, Sam Sargis, Nimrod Joseph, Yonathan beth Suleiman, and Shamasha David Sargis. Sargis Nathan was kind enough to drive His Holiness during these visits.

On Jan. 11 the Patriarch left New Britain for New York. Jan. 16 a banquet was given in his honor by the Yonkers parish, the occasion being the formal opening of the new Yonkers parish house by the Patriarch. John Pera, president of the Yonkers parish committee, opened the occasion with a welcome to His Holiness on behalf of the parish of Yonkers, and introduced Israel Yonan as toastmaster of the evening. Among guests of honor who spoke were the Hon. Christen Christensen, mayor of Yonkers, the Rev. Henry Sizar, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the Ven. Archdeacon Saul D. Neesan, of New Britain, the Rev. Benjamin Sargis, retired priest of the Church of the East, Rev. Marshall Yacob, of the Assyrian Presbyterian Church in Yonkers, and Mr. Mishael Sargis, president of the Church of the East parish in Philadelphia, whence a delegation had come.

His Holiness, in his address, spoke of the occasion when he formally established the Yonkers parish, some twelve years ago, and of the efforts made by the respective church committees, the deacons and the parishioners as a whole in bringing the work to its present successful conclusion. The Patriarch said he had all along watched these efforts with deep interest, and invoked God's blessing for the future success of the parish.

His Holiness dwelt at some length on the glorious history of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, its unequalled missionary enterprise, its martyrdoms, and the great contribution it made to the world in all the fields of learning, at a time when Western Christendom was groping through the Dark Ages. The Patriarch said the Assyrian people were twice destined by God to carry the torch of learning to the whole world; once, by the pagan Assyrians through the medium of the Greeks and other races, and secondly by Christian Assyrians through the agency of the Church of the East, from whom the Islamic Arabs borrowed the knowledge which they brought to Europe.

His Holiness called upon Assyrian Americans to contribute the best they have to the rich culture of their home of adoption, the great American nation.

Next morning, Sunday, the Patriarch celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha for the first time in the parish house. There were many communicants.

Jan. 20, His Holiness left New York for Detroit, where he was met and driven to Flint, Mich.

Sunday, Jan. 24, the Patriarch celebrated Qurbana Qaddisha in the church of Mar Shimun Bar Sabai, and preached on the gospel for the occasion. A large number of persons communicated.

Following the service a breakfast was given by the Daughters of the Church of the East in the Church basement.

Sunday evening a dinner was given in honor of His Holiness by the Youth Organization of the Church of the East in Flint. The Patriarch also heard church committees' annual reports. He was also the guest for dinner, and blessed the homes of Daniel Lazar and Nimrod Lazar.

January 25th the Patriarch returned to Chicago.

### **ENGAGEMENT OF LADY HELEN D'BETH MAR SHIMUN TO LOUIS ODISHO**

On January 4, Lady Helen was engaged to Louis Odisho of Hughson, California. Mr. Odisho is the son of the late Odisho and Bagie of the village of Baloolan. The betrothal ceremony was performed by the Rev. Isaac Rehana. Guests present were Deacon Joseph Hosanna, Dr. and Mrs. Khedroo S. Khedroo and their daughter, Dr. Florence Khedroo, Mr. and Mrs. Envia Hormis, and Mr. and Mrs. Narsay J. Serges.

## WEDDING OF LADY HELEN AND LOUIS ODISHO

On February 7, Lady Helen D'Beth Mar Shimun was married to Louis Odisho of Hughson, California. The ceremony took place in the Cathedral of Mar Sargis in Chicago. His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East CXIX, officiated at the marriage. He was assisted by the Venerable Archdeacon Saul D. Neesan, Rev. Isaac Rehana, and Deacons Jacob Serges, Bodakh DeKasha, Joseph Hosanna, Paul Joseph and Sayad Jacob. The best man (qariwa) and matron of honor (qaruta) were Mr. and Mrs. Envia Hormis. Guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L'Estrange; Mr. L'Estrange is the acting British Consul General of Chicago, Rev. and Mrs. Irwin St. John Tucker, and Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. No invitations had been mailed to anyone as it had been announced in church for three consecutive Sundays that everyone could attend the marriage and would be cordially invited.

The church was jammed to a capacity of 450 people. Immediately after the ceremony a buffet luncheon, prepared by the Daughters of the Church of the East, was served in the basement. The bride and groom spent a two week honeymoon in Miami Beach, Florida. The "Light from the East" congratulates the newlyweds and wishes them the best of health and happiness.

### REPRINT FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE (FEB. 6, 1954)

Tho the veil and ballerina length white gown chosen by Miss Helen D'Mar Shimun for her wedding tomorrow to Louis Odisho of Turlock, Cal., is of strictly American vintage, the ceremony will be in the colorful old world tradition of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic church of the East and Assyria. The bride-to-be's brother, Patriarch Mar Eshai



Mar Eshai Shimun

XXIII, world head of the Church of the East, will wear his eggshell silk cope and stole to officiate at the marriage, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of Mar Sargis, 1850 Cuyler Street. Both the cope (an ankle length vestment) and the stole are richly embroidered.

Focal points of the service conducted in the Aramaic language, are the blessing of the chalice into which are placed the wedding ring and the cross, and the laying of the wreath upon the heads of the bridegroom and the bride, symbolic of Christ and His church. The best man and matron of honor – referred to as qariwa and qaruta (meaning neighbors) by the Church of the East – will be Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Hermis.

An exile from his native country, Patriarch Mar Shimun came to this country in 1940 to establish the world headquarters of his church of which he became spiritual head when he was only 13. The church is the only one in Christendom in which the patriarchate is hereditary – and

since bishops do not marry, the office goes from uncle to nephew. The bride-elect (known in her native Cyprus as Lady Helen) was educated in England and came to this country five years ago.



### EXPLANATION OF THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Before the ceremony His Holiness explained the meaning of the marriage service in the Church of the East as follows:

Marriage in the Church of the East, is not considered a "sacrament" as it is in the West, for the Church of the East holds that the "sacraments" are only those acts related or performed by Christ Himself. Marriage, therefore, in the words of St. Paul, is a "Raza" that is "Mystery" based of course upon the fullest conception of that mystery, as commanded by Our Lord, and expounded by His Apostles and His Holy Church.

The service is divided into two parts: The first is known as the Blessing Service or the Liturgy of the Chalice, and the second, the Liturgy of the Blessing of the Wearing Apparel.

The focal points of the service are: The blessing of the Chalice into which are placed the wedding ring and the cross, and the laying of the

wreath upon the head of the bridegroom and the bride, symbolic of Christ and His Church. This mystical conception of the union of Christ and His Church constitute the basis of the whole service.

The rest of the service is composed of appropriate pieces from the Psalms and many inspiring hymns and prayers in which the worthiest examples of the married couples of the Bible are quoted and the blessings that rested upon them are invoked upon the bridegroom and the bride, praying that they may likewise be an example for their generation.

The service is conducted in the Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ, and in which the Church of the East received the scriptures from the hands of the holy Apostles themselves. All the services of the church are written and conducted in that language.

The marriage service itself is very ancient and contains some beautiful prayers composed by Mar Aprim (St. Ephraim Cyrus) a Christian-wide renowned Assyrian saint and scholar of the fourth century.

### **DEPARTURE OF RAB KHAILA, DAVID D'BETH MAR SHIMUN AND HELEN ODISHO**

Rab Khaila, David D'Beth Mar Shimun, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Odisho were the guests of honor at banquets held by three of the Church of the East parishes: Flint, on February 27, Chicago, on March 5, and New Britain, on March 10. Once again tribute and good wishes were paid to this humble but great man, and his charming daughter.

As was stated in the last issue of the paper, Rab Khaila and Helen are leaving March 13 for London, England where they will rejoin the rest of the Patriarchal family. However, after several months, Lady Helen will be joined by her husband and they will return to the United States and take permanent residence in Hughson, California.

Our tribute was paid to this wonderful father and daughter in the last issue so we will not reiterate our statements of that time, except to say that we wish them continued good health and happiness, and with the grace of God, may we see each other again in the near future.

### **NEWS FROM INDIA**

Five priests and nine deacons were ordained in the Church of Mar Yokhanan, Mamdana, in Trichur, South India on Jan. 10, 1954, His Holiness, the Patriarch was informed by His Grace, Mar Tooma Darmo, Metropolitan of Malabar and India.

The Metropolitan asked His Holiness to send his apostolic blessing upon the newly ordained and the clergy of the diocese in general. His Holiness' Epistle is published herewith.

**FROM THE PATRIARCHAL CELL  
OF THE CHURCH OF THE EAST  
PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS RECEIVE**

Our Beloved Son in Christ and Our Brother in Apostolic service, His Grace, Mar Tooma Darmo, Metropolitan of Malabar and India, Peace and Blessing in Our Lord.

Your letter has reached us and we rejoice to hear of the ordination of the five new priests and nine deacons for the daughter church of India, which you recently performed. We send our Apostolic and Patriarchal blessing to these priests and deacons, beseeching Our Lord that the Holy Spirit which they have received by virtue of the laying of hands through the Apostolic succession, may guide them in the performing of their sacred vocation to the glory and honour of the Holy Trinity, One God, and His Holy Church.

We also send our blessing to all the clergy of the diocese, praying Our Lord that He may guide and lead them at all times and this His blessing may rest upon all the faithful people committed to their charge.

We also pray that Maran Eshoo Mshikha, the Great shepherd, may, according to the holy promise made to His Apostles, be with Your Grace and guide you in the performance of your exalted Office for the flock which you are entrusted to lead as an Apostolic shepherd of His holy Church, and that you and they may finally attain the eternal peace and joy which are the goal of our Christian faith.

With our Apostolic and Patriarchal Blessing. May the Grace of Maran Eshoo M'shikha, the love of Alaha Awa, and the communion of Rukha Qaddisha, be with you all, Amen.

Eshai Shimun,  
By Grace, Catholicos Patriarch of the East

Written in the Patriarchal Cell,  
February 5, 1954, to Our Lord.

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**THE METROPOLITAN AND THE CLERGY OF THE  
CHURCH OF THE EAST IN INDIA**



**H.G. MAR THOMA DARMO, METROPOLITAN OF MALABAR AND INDIA**

2. Rev. C. I. Antony. 3. Rev. M. P. Francis. 4. Rev. P. L. Francis.  
5. Rev. M. L. Francis. 6. Rev. P. V. Jacob. 7. Rev. P. T. John.  
8. Rev. P. D. Francis. 9. Rev. M. O. Varghese. 10. Rev. P. K. Timothy.  
11. Rev. M. T. Joseph. 12. Rev. V. T. Rappai. (8-12 Newly  
ordained priests). 13. Dn. A. T. Joseph. 14. Dn. E. L. Varghese.  
15. Dn. P. L. Timothy. 16. Dn. K. J. John. 17. Dn. M. I. David.  
18. Dn. K. P. Joseph. 19. Dn. V. D. Joseph. 20. Dn. M. D. Mathai.  
21. Dn. K. V. Pathros. 22. Dn. C. V. Timothy. 23. Dn. K. P. Yo-  
hannan. 24. Dn. A. L. Lazar. (16-24 Newly ordained Deacons).

PHOTO TAKEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINATION OF FIVE  
PRIESTS AND NINE DEACONS IN MAR YOKHANAN MAMDANA  
CHURCH, TRICHUR, JANUARY 10, 1954.

## PRINCE PETER OF GREECE ASKS HISTORY OF CHURCH IN TIBET

Prince PETER of Greece, a subscriber and regular reader of "LIGHT FROM THE EAST", writes from Kalimpong, in West Bengal, India, to ask for news of the Church of the East in Tibet, a country whose history he is studying.

Prince Peter asks a correction in a recent report published in this magazine. He says;

"In your last number, you refer to the "visit of Prince George of Greece to the Cathedral in India." My name is Peter. Prince George is my father. He is 84 years old, and has thus, little chance of traveling to so distant a place as Trichur. I should be grateful if the mistake could be corrected in a later issue."

This correction is hereby cheerfully made.

The Prince goes on to write;

"I am presently working on a study of Tibet and Tibetans, (that is why I am here) and I have been wondering if there was anything known of the past history of your Church in Tibet. The Ramaist ceremonies are supposed to have been influenced by Church of the East ritual, but apart from that, does the Patriarchate know of any actual church of your denomination established in Tibet in the past? If so, please let me know, and if I find out anything about this, I shall certainly let you know too."

In reply the Prince has been informed that in "Nestorian Documents and Relics in China", by P. Y. Saeki, on page 454, the following translation from an ancient monument erected in the seventh century A.D., is quoted.

Speaking of a Persian Prince called Alohan (the Chinese form of Abraham) the monument says;

"As soon as the Prince arrived at the capitol, the emperor appointed him Generalissimo and charged him with the responsibility of defending the Northern Gate" (I.E. The Northern region of China) (here is one illegible character), "and sent him as the Imperial Envoy to the tribes of Tibet, Ephraim, and other countries. On the Western border of Ephraim he set up a stone monument which is still visible, and is still preaching the essence of the Holy Teaching to the wild tribes. Ever since, all the surrounding countries (that is, around the monument) have become very peaceful."

Elsewhere Saeki says this man Alohan was a chorepiscopa of the Church of the East, recognized as a prince by the Chinese emperor.



## CHURCH BOOKS BEING PUBLISHED

The book of Takhsa D'annidy (Service For The Burial Of The Dead) and the book of Marganitha (The Pearl) which is a theological standard work of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, are now being published by the Mar Narsay Press, of the Church of the East, in Trichur, India.

Marganitha is being published in two parallel columns, one in the Aramaya and the other Swadaya (the Aramaic original and the spoken Syriac).

Both of these books are sorely needed, and the Marganitha will undoubtedly prove to be of great value to both the clergy and the laity of the church.

The expense for the publication of these books has been undertaken by the World Council of Churches, and His Holiness, the Patriarch of the East has expressed his appreciation of this act of cooperation of the World Council.

## BIOGRAPHY OF MR. VICTOR MIRZA

The editor requested a short biography of Mr. Victor Mirza, who is now working and studying in the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad shops in Danville, Illinois. A short sketch in Syriac, and photos of Mr. and Mrs. Mirza appeared in the last issue.

We felt that our subscribers would enjoy reading about an ambitious, intelligent, and outstanding young man. It always pleases us to hear success stories, and we hope that you will share the same pride and sincere best wishes towards Victor as we do.

### Family Background

Born 1919. Parents are Margaret Dooman Mirza and the late Dr. Alexan Mirza. His father was a doctor in the American Missionary Hospital in Urumia for many years. The doctor continued on the staff when it was taken over by the Iranian government and called Pahlavi hospital. His mother is the daughter of Dr. Abshalom Dooman of Urumia. She is a graduate of the seminary school there.

Victor has three brothers. One is a veterinarian doctor, and an employee of the Iranian government. Last year he was sent to the United States to study food sanitation and milk pasteurization. At present he is associated with the United States Point 4 program in Iran. One other brother is studying medicine at Teheran University, and the other is in high school. He has two sisters; one is a nurse in the Iranian government hospital, and the other works in an archeological museum.

## **Marital Status**

Married. One daughter. Wife's name is Germaine. She graduated from high school and also had a two year nursing course in the Anglo-Iranian Oil company in Abadan.

## **Education**

Attended grade school in the Missionary school in Urumia, high school in Pahlavi school, also in Urumia. He has a Mechanical Engineering degree and a Master's degree from the University of Teheran. Last year he was chosen to study in the United States on all phases of Diesel-electric locomotives, including repair and construction, and the possibilities of converting Iranian railroads from steam power to diesel-electric. Later he will study locomotive construction at the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors Corporation. He will return to Iran June 24, 1954.

## **Professional Experience**

Last six years employed by Iranian State Railways as a locomotive shop superintendent. This railroad has 1500 miles of track, and 200 oil burning steam locomotives.

## **His Impression of America**

He feels that we have a high standard of living, and that our people are frank and friendly. Our credit system and budget plan purchases are very helpful to the average worker in maintaining this standard. He has tremendous respect for our high production rate and the consequent ability to sell goods to a vast majority of the people. He especially admires our wonderful industries, communication systems, and our constant research programs. His only criticism is our high divorce rate, and smoking among our youth.

## **DRAMA AT HABBANIYA, IRAQ**

A dramatic presentation of "Joseph the Dreamer", in Syriac, was staged by the players of "Dramatic Committee of the Church of the East" in the Civil Cantonment Indoor Cinema on Saturday, December 5, 1953.

This historical story was revised by Mr. Youkhana Yacub of Habbaniya and directed by Mr. William David. The show was very successful and words alone cannot express the feeling of gratitude to the players, who were given every possible assistance by the Dramatic Committee which consisted of Smamasha Sheem - president, Korish Dary awish - vice president, Youkhana Yacub - secretary, Shamasha Baba - treasurer, William David, Hormis Joseph and Samo Eyoun - members.

Credit is also due to Messrs. Shaul and Joseph, president and secretary of the Church Committee, Mr. Baba Mirza, the stage manager, and to Italiou Shaul, ticket collector.

Proceeds are being made available for the general upkeep and improvement of facilities in the Church School.

Names of characters are:-

First Row from Left to Right

Awner Moshi, Dinkha Youkhana, Walodya Joseph.

2nd Row Korish Daryawish, Daniel Nooro, Phillip Kamber, Youra Eshaya, Minashi Joseph, Hormis Kenias.

3rd Row Emmanuel Joseph, Mrs. William David, Sargis Benjamin, William David, Baba Benjamin, Juliet David.

4th Row Shamasha Sheem, Shimshon Gewargis, Youkhana Yacub, Odisho Khoshaba, Oshana Youram, Yakhani Lazar, Hormis Joseph, Ben Youkhana, Skharya Odisho, Sargis Shimshon, Samo Eyou, Joseph Yousepus, Shamasha Baba.

(Photo by Israel Nathaniel - Habbaniya)



### CHICAGO NEWS

On January 29, the Daughters of the Church of the East and the girls of the Youth Organization gave a bridal shower for Lady Helen D'Beth Mar Shimun. A large crowd was present, and many lovely gifts were received.

On Sunday, February 14, the Venerable Archdeacon Saul D. Neesan baptized his grandson, Raymond Edward Jr., son of Raymond and Esther Gerlach.

The congregation of the Church of the East recently elected the following officers for the church committee:

Albert Joseph Jr.	President
Deacon Jacob Serges	Vice-President
Alex Warda	Treasurer
John Sargis	Secretary

### GARY NEWS

Ground has been broken and construction started on a new Church of the East. Thus far much of the labor has been done by the members of the congregation. We wish them great success. We hope to print pictures in our next issue.

### NEW BRITAIN NEWS

The members of the St. Thomas Youth Organization have elected the following officers for 1954:

Barbara Nimrod	President
Elaine Benjamin	Vice-President
Margaret Eshoo	Treasurer
Margaret Moses	Secretary
Norma Isaac	Ass't. Secretary

Robert Sargis has also become a member of the club. Two of the members are continuing their education. Mary Ann Benjamin is training at the New Britain General Hospital School of Nursing, and Annette Sargis is studying Business Merchandising at Bryant College, Providence, Rhode Island.

### FLINT NEWS

Margaret Shirina, age 54, died on January 1 of a heart attack. She is survived by her husband, David, three daughters, Mrs. Jenny Isaac, Mrs. Serma Isaac, Nora, a son, Matthew, and four grandchildren. Mrs. Shirina was a faithful attendant of the church, and was very active in the Daughters of the Church of the East organization. The staff wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the bereaved members of the family.

The following officers have been elected for the 1954 Church Committee:

Jacob Baly	President
Robert Ganja	Vice-President
Matthew Shirina	Treasurer
Mary Moorhatch	Secretary

Trustees: Sam Esse, John Thomas, Jacob Yedger, and Mishael Yonan.

The Venerable Archdeacon Saul D. Neesan was Flint's guest during the first week in February. While visiting the parish he gave an inspiring sermon regarding the Flint church.











1. חשבון המס הכנסה (המס הכנסה) הוא מס שנתני, המוטל על הכנסות של הפרט או של החברה, המושגות במסגרת הפעילות הכלכלית. המס הכנסה הוא מס שנתני, המוטל על הכנסות של הפרט או של החברה, המושגות במסגרת הפעילות הכלכלית. המס הכנסה הוא מס שנתני, המוטל על הכנסות של הפרט או של החברה, המושגות במסגרת הפעילות הכלכלית.

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(ג) המס הכנסה הוא מס שנתני, המוטל על הכנסות של הפרט או של החברה, המושגות במסגרת הפעילות הכלכלית. המס הכנסה הוא מס שנתני, המוטל על הכנסות של הפרט או של החברה, המושגות במסגרת הפעילות הכלכלית.





