

No. 540

Near East Mission,
United Church Board for World Ministries
P. K. 142, Istanbul, TURKEY
10 January 1963

Dear Friends:

As we enter the New Year of 1963 we wish to use the first issue of "Dear Friends" in greeting you and in wishing you a year blessed with fellowship, service and inspiration. Most appropriately, then, the subject of this letter is the Peace Corps which has been working in Turkey (not under the UCBFM) since September 1962.

Briefly, the Peace Corps is a non-religious, non-political and non-racial program of volunteer service of American people to the people of 41 other countries. Its purpose is to promote world peace and friendship. The volunteers help in projects which contribute to a country's economic, social, cultural or political development, -- and go only to those countries which ask for help.

Volunteers are chosen for their needed skills and competence, their good health, ability to get along with others and to communicate, emotional maturity, self-reliance and resourcefulness, imagination and friendliness. Half of them are teachers: English, science, mathematics, trades. The remainder are in community, urban and rural development programs such as building bridges, schools and public health centers, improving land and water supplies, assisting in agricultural extension work, and helping in the areas of health, sanitation, nutrition and home economics. By the end of 1963 it is hoped that 10,000 Peace Corps workers will be in service. Already other countries are following suit with their own similar programs.

While the Peace Corps is carefully disassociated from religion, a Peace Corps Office was established a year ago by the National Council of Churches in the United States to act as liaison between the churches and the Corps for sharing information and interpretation. Subsequently this Office helped through the summer in voluntary discussion sessions led by college chaplains on the 96 campuses where volunteers were being trained. Questions such as worship life and responsible Christian living abroad -- which were beyond the limits of the Peace Corps -- could be discussed freely at this time.

Today Turkey has 39 Peace Corps workers scattered throughout the country in such places as Bursa and Çorum, Gaziantep and Kastamonu, Mersin and Bandırma, Karabük and Kırık-kale -- some where foreigners are almost unknown. Thirty-one are English teachers in the lycées and eight are agricultural workers. Of the eight agriculturalists, five are working with irrigation and soil conservation and three are in the forestry department in Mersin. In addition, two staff members are located in Ankara, a doctor and Mr. David Weinman who is in charge of the central office.

Hopefully, the total effect these workers are creating among their associates is not far from the one reported by Mr. Herman Kreider of the American College for Girls following a visit with the Provincial Director of Public Instruction and the Chairman of the Adult Education in one of the cities in western Turkey where three young women had recently begun teaching lycée English. Their remarks, as accurately as he could remember, were as follows:

" 'Having had practically no previous contact with Americans our image of them had been built up from newspaper reports about Americans in their cars running down pedestrians and fleeing from the scene or from the legal consequences; Americans with fabulously high rental allowances outbidding our citizens for the best housing, thus pushing up the rental levels, as well as other costs of living; Americans riveted to the comfort and luxury of Istanbul, unwilling to venture at all into the less advanced areas of the country; these and many other unfavorable impressions of the American attitude had reached us.

" 'From the first day these three girls were the very opposite of the pictures that had been drawn of Americans' behavior. They declined to rent quarters at a price above the very modest level that they had evidently decided upon as their top limit: 300 liras (\$33.00) a month. At that price they found a 3-room suite on a side street, several doors from us, and they appear to be quite happy in these modest quarters.

" 'Two or three evenings ago we had a party, with these three girls the only non-Turks present. We soon realized that they had somewhere, somehow learned a bit of Turkish, and were seizing every opportunity to learn more.

" 'Even more impressive than their interest in our language was their eagerness to avoid any action that might give offense, even to people with a conservative outlook. When drinks were offered they politely declined, even to accept beer. When the dancing began they managed quietly to avoid being asked, evidently in accordance with some aspect of their advance orientation. Their ability to decline offers of this without injuring the feelings of their hosts was a joy to behold.'

"As someone expressed it that evening, these people acted as if they really considered themselves chosen to serve as the personal representatives of the President of the United States.

" 'Rightly or wrongly we think of ourselves as a people with a past filled with accomplishments, but temporarily left far behind by many nations. In our eagerness to catch up we have to accept material aid: economic aid, military aid, sometimes even food to eat. Our gratitude for such aid is diluted with a measure of shame, that we have fallen into such a state that we must accept gifts and loans.

" 'What these people are giving is something infinitely more appreciated: it is aid acceptable without any sense of unfulfillable obligation.

" 'These people, of course, are giving something they alone can give: they are giving themselves. There's nothing like it in the world.' "

Anna G. Edmonds

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Anna G. Edmonds

Near East Mission,
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P. K. 142, İstanbul, TURKEY
15 January 1963

Dear Friends:

How good it is that we end the old and begin the New Year by remembering friends! Greetings to the Mission have come from Katherine Fletcher and Theda Bell Phelps; from Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Blakney; from Elvesta Leslie (now a great-grandmother with the birth on Nov. 25th of Kathryn Frances Morier); from Rev. and Mrs. Frank Stolzhus, now living at Rt. 1, West Liberty, Ohio and from many others. The complete list begins to read like a "Who's Who of the Mission" of the recent years.

The Stanley Cherims send word of the birth of their second child, a girl, on August 8. Stan is teaching chemistry and math at Friends Central School in Moylan, Pennsylvania. Bill Ludwig is head of the English Department of the Community High School in Erie, Illinois. Bessie H. Lyman writes of a trip with Dr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Nute, Sr., to the West Coast and then back part of the way with Merrill Isely. She visited with the Iselys, the Raymond Whites, Ethel Lovatt and Betty Richmond Anthony. Dave Holmes is now a travel counsellor for the AAA and living in Boston. George Helling is the new head of the Department of Sociology at the Municipal University of Omaha, Nebraska. He and Bobbi have three children: Amy, Emilie and Matt.

Writing of life in America the Jack Browns say, "Our neighborhood is a good one because in it we can do our stint toward healthy integration by merely being as gentle and open as we can with Ross's best pal -- a Negro boy. This is a big experiment we're involved in which we're not sure about the outcome -- to keep a neighborhood healthily integrated -- not all black." Dr. Lynn A. Scipio, formerly dean of the Robert College School of Engineering, has moved into a new home at 510 Oxford Court, Worthington, Ohio. A year ago he received an honorary Doctor of Engineering Science degree at Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana. Emerson College, Boston, awarded honorary doctor's degrees to Mrs. Newell Steward, President of Pierce College, Athens, and Alford Carleton, Executive Vice President of the Board for World Ministries, in June. Dr. Carleton was also awarded an honorary doctorate by Chicago Theological Seminary in June.

A long feature article written by Salih S. Uygur on the Gaziantep hospital was printed in the İstanbul newspaper, Yeni Sabah. It is entitled, "Nineteen Graduates from the Gaziantep Medical Faculty" with a sub-heading, "American scientists have been working in this region for years as though they were real natives." Two pictures accompany the article, one of the Privratskys and one of "Ernest Hemingway's cousin, Isabel". Other news from Gaziantep is of an art exhibit given by Grace Privratsky in Adana in the late fall and of Isabel Hemingway's departure to the United States for furlough. Mrs. Daryll Gwynn also returned to the United States in December. The Paul H. Nilsons of the Bible left December 2 for a three-month furlough.

News of the death of the Reverend Frederick D. Greene on October 14 has reached us. Mr. Green was born in 1863 of missionary parents in Bursa, Turkey, and went to school first at Robert College. In 1888 he received a B. D. Degree from Yale University; he was married to Sarah Anna Foster in 1889 and in 1890 the couple went to Van, Turkey to serve as missionaries in a school for boys and a church. They were there until 1894 when massacres forced them to flee through Iran and Russia. Subsequently Mr. Greene became secretary of the American Bible Society, a social worker in the night courts of New York, and director of the United Hospital Fund of New York.

Leading the list of the visitors to the Mission is Miss Margaret R. Blemker, who has been in the Mission area from November 7. She left İstanbul January 10 for her return to New York. The Reverend William C. Nelson, President of the UCBWM Board of Directors, and Mrs. Nelson were visiting here from January 12 to 14 and spoke to the station on the work of the Board around the world. Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, formerly director of the World Council of Churches Study Center in Bossey, Switzerland, and author of several books on Christian Missionary theology, was here with his wife in December. Early that month the Reverend Addison Eastman, Executive Secretary of the Joint Committee on the

Near East and South East Asia of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches, was here briefly as he completed his tour of Burma, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Nepal, Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

In the order of their arrival, Heather Ellen Wittler was born in İstanbul on October 26th, and the Reverend Everett and Mrs. Blake returned to İzmir on January 2nd after a six-months' furlough. Irma Nunn left İstanbul December 31 for Gaziantep, after a prolonged delay, to take up her work at the hospital there.

The announcement has come of the wedding of Miss Marguerite Maree Evans to Dr. William Matthews. They were married October 20, and are presently living at 3541 Carondelet, New Orleans 15, La.

Among those present at the Near East Christian Council's Consultation on the Unity and Mission of the Church in the Near East, held at Aleih, Lebanon, November 8 to 15, were Margaret Blemker, David M. Stowe, and Melvin A. Wittler.

İzmir was the site of both the Mid-Winter Orientation Conference for new personnel and a meeting of the Spiritual Outreach Committee December 28 - 30. Aleppo, Gaziantep, Talas, Tarsus and Üsküdar were represented. At about the same time the yearly social service seminar was held in Talas. A fuller report of that meeting is anticipated for the next issue of "Dear Friends."

A sign prominently displayed in the Mısır Çarşası in İstanbul advertises "Honey from real flowers". And the latest from the misprint department: "İSTANBUL, Dec. 16 -- Italian opera singers in İstanbul will give a Charity Councert for Society for production of Children on December 21 at Şan Cinema."

Anna G. Edmonds

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OFF THE PRESS:

Volumes I and II of the writings, speeches and radio talks of Vedide Baha Pars, the first books in a series on exemplary Turkish lives. These collections edited by Ayşe Akıncı and Cahit Pars are particularly valuable for educators, parents and students. The first volume also contains a biography by Ayşe Akıncı and a tribute by Samin Kocagöz, the noted Turkish short story writer. TL 3.00 each.

Two children's books are now available:

Osman ile Aslan (Andy and the Lion) by James Daugherty, translated by an Üsküdar student, Mine Arısan. It is a modern rendition of the famous story, Androcles and the Lion. TL 1.75

Gizli Oyun (The Secret Game). This is a genuine mission product: story by Dorothy Blatter and Mary Nute, translation by Jacklyn Blake, illustrations by Gloria Castillo. It is the story of the Ego Family (Benciller) and their discovery of learning to think of others. TL 1.00

Three new books have just been published in the New Literate Series:

Gökkubbe Altında (Under the Sky All Men are One Family)

Book I - İki Hint Hikâyesi (Two Tales from India)

Book II - Hayvan Arkadaşlarımızdan Hikâyeler (Tales of Our Animal Friends)

Book III - Uzak İllerden Üç Hikâye (Three Tales from Afar)

These are selections from Sophia L. Fahs book From Long Ago and Many Lands and were translated by Zühtü Konvur a former Talas student. TL .50 each.

It should be noted that the Board Office (Miss Blemker), 475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor, N.Y. 27, now has a stock of colored note cards for sale. They are priced at 10 cents per card.

Two new kinds of stationery are now available: Note Stationery (a package of assorted sketches of scenes in Turkey, drawn by Grace Privratsky; TL 3.00 per package of ten with envelopes. Note Tablets, Silhouettes or Sketches; TL 4.00 per tablet without envelopes.

Dear Friends

In recent years the Mission has found increasing opportunities of expressing the social gospel in a variety of service activities: bookmobiles, village literacy programs, big sister projects in neighboring orphanages, well-baby clinics, and individual social service work, to name only some. This issue of "Dear Friends" combines a report of the 1962 Social Service Seminar illustrating one of the ways students are being led to an understanding of social problems and opportunities in their country with a report of a specific project carried on by a group in Rumeli Hisari.

"Kipling observed that 'East is east and West is west' and further predicted that 'never the twain will meet'. A similar condition in Turkey between the urban intelligentsia and the many villagers has been the concern of a growing number of Turks as well as foreign observers in Turkey. Among the beginning attempts to provide for a meeting of this 'twain' was the Social Service Seminar held in Talas the last four days of December, 1962. From seven schools, located primarily in the urban areas of Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul, 36 students gathered in the heart of Anatolia in search of a greater understanding of their fellow countrymen who live in villages. Adding to the interchange at the Seminar were ten teachers from villages near Talas who appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences and to gain inspiration from the Seminar meetings.

"This seminar is the fourth of such to be sponsored by the United Church Board schools in Turkey for representatives of their Social Service Clubs. The first was held in the summer of 1960 at the Izmir American Collegiate Institute. It provided an opportunity for the students to share their experiences in the various volunteer service activities of their clubs and at the same time to learn more of the wider social problems and the professional programs that exist in their communities. Succeeding seminars with similar programs have been held in Izmir and at the Academy for Girls in Uskudar. While the major focus of the Social Service Clubs has been to provide volunteer services to urban institutions such as hospitals, orphanages and reformatories, in this past year there has been a growing concern for reaching out to help with the problems in the villages. In keeping with this trend the seminar this year met at the Talas School for Boys with the theme of 'Rural Social Service: Helping in Village Development'.

"The four major goals set for this seminar were to give those who attended:

1. A greater understanding of the method of social research for attaining a clearer definition of social problems;
2. A greater understanding of the method of Community Development for social action aimed at solving the problems;
3. Some practical suggestions for social action that can be carried on by non-professional young people; and
4. An opportunity to exchange ideas regarding the Social Service programs of the various schools represented.'

A variety of activities was planned to achieve these goals.

"Field trips to nearby villages for two consecutive afternoons provided practical experience in social research. In each village 40 families were interviewed by student teams using a questionnaire which was planned to find out about the families' economic status, health attitudes and practices and attitudes toward social changes. Discussing the methods and results of the research project with Dr. Ibrahim Yasa, a

rural sociologist from the University of Ankara, the students gained a better understanding of the experience. Some of the interesting results listed were:

1. The village people are not used to thinking specifically: their estimates of the village population would range from 750 to 4,000 people (the correct figure was 1,900).
2. The villagers are poor by urban standards, but they do have both a cash income and the food that they raise.
3. In regard to the health conditions, there is a limited variety of food; medical services are very limited and basic practices such as boiling water and bathing babies are not followed.
4. Some of the changing conditions are that new schools have been well received and higher level schools, better water supplies, medical services and mosques are desired; however, these changes are expected to come as help from the government rather than being achieved by the investment of time and some money on the part of the community.
5. And of course, meeting the men with two wives was an interesting experience!

"The method of Community Development as a 'Hope for Underdeveloped Rural Areas' was presented by Robert Keller, director of the seminar. He emphasized that Community Development must include the enlistment of self-help and cooperative effort from the villagers along with technical assistance from government and voluntary organizations. Bay Nabi Dincer, a member of the Public Administration Institute of Turkey and the Middle East whose special field is Community Development, outlined the important techniques for those working in that area and also explained the new National Five-Year Plan Community Development Organization. He emphasized that the cooperation of the villagers can only be gained by working with them closely to learn the needs that they feel and then by winning their confidence through trying new ways to solve their problems. Some of the government technical assistance activities were explained by Kayseri agents of the Agricultural Department and the Sewing Courses of the Department of Education. Various types of medical assistance given by voluntary organizations was described by Mrs. Wm. L. Nute, Jr. of the Azariah Memorial Hospital in Gaziantep and Miss Beth Miller and Mrs. Warren H. Winkler of the Talas Nute Clinic.

"During the field trips to the villages many of the students had an opportunity to participate in the Well-Baby Clinic program of the Talas Nute Clinic -- one example of a practical program where non-professional volunteers can be of service. Along with members of the Clinic staff the students weighed babies, washed their faces and talked with their mothers about how to feed the powdered milk supplement that is provided by CARE. Another practical program is that of Literacy Work in villages such as the program described by some representatives from the Izmir School. There, a group of students and faculty advisors have put to use their free time in preparing reading materials for newly literate village women and then giving lessons to women who have never dreamed of being able to read. Volunteer help can also be used by government agents in a number of their activities, especially in the field of education. Mr. James Johnson, representing the Work Camps Promotion Association of Turkey, described week-end and summer work camps as another very practical volunteer service designed for non-professional young people.

"At the close of the seminar an impressive list of activities was compiled as the students reported on their Social Service Club programs. But still there was eager enthusiasm for doing more. At the seminar there had been a meeting of the 'twain' that neither would soon forget, a meeting that developed a further concern in the students to want to help solve the basic rural problems of their nation and a meeting that has given some new hope to the villagers who sense the sincere concern of the students."

Robert S. Keller

How such service can be carried out in specific examples is illustrated in the following report of the work of the Hisar Women's League. The ultimate value of social work lies in the love for people expressed through the medium of medicines, food and other concrete aid. When the concern for the one needing help is communicated the difficulties tend to take care of themselves: the person is able to find within himself the needed strength that, alone, he had lost. Without love the help has little lasting value; with it the age-old miracle of transformation takes place.

"I wonder if I could take you with me on the rounds of some homes in the community of Rumeli Hisari, a town located next to Robert College, eight miles up the Bosphorus from Istanbul. The outside construction of a house might be unpainted rotten timber, cinderblocks or some timber with old gas cans split open and spread over the wood to keep out the cold. One finds the home interiors limited in material goods in order that money can be saved for the winter fuel of perhaps 1/2 ton of wood or some charcoal. In most cases a family can think only of the day to day needs and is not prepared for the winter and the medical needs that always come. The newspaper walls, the broken plaster and kerosene lamps make life difficult and sad at times.

"Hasan and his wife with two teen-age sons live in a small room on the edge of the sea. Four more children have been sent back to their home village since the mother is seriously ill and there isn't enough food for all. The mother has an abdominal disorder and has spent ten days in the hospital. She needed more time there, but her husband didn't have any more money left from his \$32 a month earnings. In fact he had asked friends and strangers for money to pay most of the hospital bill. It was after this that I heard about this woman and offered to find a new solution. Together we went to a nearby government clinic which they never knew existed. (People from the interior of the country do not know where to turn for help.) She was admitted to this small clinic of several beds and given the best of care for fifteen days. Now medicine and extra food are being given along with some interest in the family as individuals. A grateful husband saved a fish for me on a visit, and just as I was leaving suddenly caught another to his amazement and gave it also to me.

"A little two-year old girl in a cast from the waist to the ankles turned restlessly in a rumpled up bed. The young mother and father were tired and impatient from sleepless nights with the child. No cuddle or funny toy was beside her. Her hip had been dislocated at birth. Three months after it had been straightened and the child had been in a cast it was discovered that the bones had not been properly set. The mother made many trips to the charity clinic in nine months. She was tired from waiting an hour in line each time and discouraged by a doctor who seemed bored with the case. The young mother had to be encouraged to move the child from the dark room to the sun each day and then taught to prepare food differently to entice the child to eat. Slowly a change took place in the little girl with proper food, rested parents and some toy gifts from a nearby kindergarten. The father found outdoor work that kept him busy perhaps three days a week.

"Today in this town of Rumeli Hisari and the neighboring town of Bebek there is a women's organization whose sole purpose is to find ways of serving people in illness or in age, to further education for deserving students and to assist in new community plans. In 1918 a Charity Association made up of men and women of the Robert College faculty families, both Turkish and foreign, started to serve people in Rumeli Hisari. Families donated food to a cupboard from which it was distributed bi-monthly to the needy. In one period women bought cloth, hired seamstresses to cut and sew it and then distributed the clothes. For several years a College doctor conducted a bi-monthly clinic in the community. One year members of the group conducted a soup kitchen for the poor, and people gave one cent a bowl three times a week.

"Since 1930 this group has excluded men from the membership, but from time to time they still contribute their money and talent. It is this group of some fifty women of several nationalities that now has been raising about \$1,575 a year to serve the elderly, the sick and the primary school of the area. I am a member of the community service committee of this Hisar Women's League.

"The Turkish branch of the YMCA opened its first summer camp in 1958. Two boys were chosen from the graduating class of the fifth grade in Rumeil Hisari to have a taste of a joyful, cooperative experience. The following year two girls were sent to a girls' camp, and then the next boys were chosen. The next year the gift of money was given to the whole school in the form of building bookcases and adding books to their small library. Perhaps this year we will select more boys for the new day camp in the city in order that the ground work can begin for an eventual summer playground program in this area.

"One of the policemen of Rumeli Hisari and his wife found it hard to think they should go through another nose operation for their ten year-old son. As he had been an experimental case for students it seemed that proper care had not been given in the year following the operation. He was seen by the staff of the American hospital who advised a second operation. After many conversations assuring the family of our concern, the operation took place with most gratifying results. The father still wonders what it is that made the League seek out his son, try to help him and then contribute largely toward the hospital expenses.

"Tuberculosis can still be found in city people as well as country. Two elderly sisters, one with a small income, receive a monthly allotment from us. One sister cannot work at all because of her medical history and present illness. In between bouts with the disease she does needle work earning a little that way. Only two homes for old people exist in Istanbul. They accept people irregardless of nationality or religion, but no one having immediate relatives who can support him.

"In these sorely strained economic times in Turkey when work is short, people hungry and cold and man's animal instincts come to the fore, it is well to share as much as possible our material needs. But along with them we must also give others a sense of our concern and love for them. Perhaps from this they will learn to pass on to an ever widening group their sense of appreciation for what they have received."

Mrs. C. Robert Avery

Anna G. Edmonds, editor.

28 February 1963

Dear Friends,

"Ever since the day of Jesus Christ, the Church has had but one essential task -- to communicate the Gospel to every man, woman and child. It is for this reason that the Church exists." *

Today the work of the Church spreads around the world. In order for the Church to be able to reach everyone it must use all the possible means of communication at its disposal. No single medium is sufficient, but none can cross as many boundaries as radio. Its waves need no visas to go through political borders, no ships nor airplanes to avoid geographical boundaries. They need no apologies nor special preparation to pass the defenses thrown up by race or religion or fear.

Thus it is that on February 26 the churches in the Near East marked a climax and a beginning in their work of evangelism as the Radio Voice of the Gospel began regular broadcasting from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Africa, South Asia and the Near East. This experiment in Christian radio is the Church's newest tool in its crusade to convince all people of the urgency and the relevancy of the Christian way of life.

Owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation Broadcasting Service, RVOG is under the direction of the LWF/BS and the Near East Christian Council. (The responsibilities and privileges of the NECC in the station are in process of being revised to include representation from the All Africa Conference of Churches, the East Asia Christian Conference and the Division of World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches. The reason for this change is apparent as one realizes the extent of influence the station will have.) Prior to 1958 these two groups had been studying the feasibility of establishing Christian broadcasting stations. In that year both of them, independent of each other, requested the Imperial Ethiopian Government for a radio station franchise. Before the franchise was granted the groups had agreed to cooperate in the station. Late in 1959 official permission was given to the Lutheran World Federation to build and operate the Radio Voice of the Gospel.

Because of the cooperation that is necessary for a project of this extent to succeed, the churches are realizing with increasing maturity the true ecumenical scope of the Gospel. Churches that before were not able to work together are now being unified in a project whose potentials are far greater than the mere sum of its participating bodies. It is not a simple unification; it is not an easy one. It is one that challenges the Churches as they work together to demonstrate that all men are brothers in Christ.

The purpose of the Radio Voice of the Gospel, as stated in its constitution is fivefold: 1) to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the scriptures as the only means of salvation to the widest possible audience; 2) to strengthen the life of the Christian churches within radio reach by providing programs that nurture believers in their Christian faith, and to keep the challenge and responsibility of evangelism constantly before the churches; 3) to promote education and culture through the broadcast of educational and cultural programs; 4) to assist the churches in follow-up work; and 5) to train radio workers.

These purpose are carried out partly in the kinds of programs to be broadcast: programs of Christian outreach and public service. Thirty percent of the actual time of broadcast is to be taken up with specifically Christian subjects: programs of worship, evangelistic talks, religious music, Biblical drama and discussions on contemporary moral and spiritual issues. Seventy percent of the programs are to be public service with a Christian emphasis: international news, talks on child care and development, home economics, agricultural concerns, health and education. If when these programs are conceived they are inspired by nothing deeper than the desires to inform and entertain they will be a waste

of time since local government stations achieve these. But if through subjects such as raising children, attitudes of Christian love and brotherhood can be taught then the RVOG can be an effective tool in the hands of the churches. In this lies one of the greatest challenges of the project: that the thought and skill that go into the total work be no less than that of the highest caliber.

Until this month there has been no Christian radio station serving the part of the world that lies between Monaco, Liberia and the Philippines. RVOG will serve an area from the Gold Coast to Sumatra, from Turkey to South Africa. In other words, this is not a small fly-by-night outfit. This is a project that carries with it the equal responsibilities, privileges and influences of a major network.

Among the languages of the station will be Arabic, Zulu, Swahili, English, Telegu, Turkish, Malagasy, French, Sisitu and Persian. Some of these are already in production; some such as Turkish await the many preliminary arrangements before actual taping and broadcasting can be done: training of writers and technicians, government permissions, equipment for studios. The biggest hurdle all areas face in the regular production of programs is the problem of finding enough skilled, devoted Christians to give their time and their talents. As is true of any profession, radio is not a one-time thing. When the program for today is produced there are always the unending next day's demands.

As a beginning, Arabic programs produced in Beirut will be on the air half an hour a day, beamed to the East Arab area from 16:00 to 16:30 Greenwich Mean Time. These programs can be heard clearly by people living in Eastern Turkey. Beginning about March 15 Arabic programs will be beamed to the West Arab area, including Turkey from 17:30 to 18:00 GMT. The frequency for both these programs is 9680 kilocycles (or alternatively 9645 kilocycles). Station identification and station break announcements will be in English before and after each language bloc of time. The call letters for the station are ETLF. After May 1 the station will be broadcasting one and one-half hours daily to the Near East.

Radio Voice of the Gospel

call letters ETLF

Frequency for all
the Near East

Time of broadcast, Feb. 26 - May 1

East Arab Beam

West Arab Beam

16:00 - 16:30 GMT

17:30 - 18:00 GMT

19:00 - 19:30 Turkish Daylight

20:30 - 21:00 TDS

Saving

9680

9645 (alt.)

Time of broadcast, after May 1

15:00 - 16:30 GMT

16:00 - 17:30 GMT

18:00 - 19:30 TDS

19:00 - 20:30 TDS

The financial responsibility for such an extensive project is being born in large part by the Lutheran World Federation. Already it has contributed \$1,500,000 towards setting up the station. Operational expenses for 1963 — the first year of broadcasting — have been estimated at more than \$320,000. Of this the NECC is anticipating expenditures for a budget of \$125,000. (Last year the NECC was able to raise about \$100,000 from all sources, — from RAVEMCO, DFM, from the Near East churches during Radio Week, from the European churches and societies and from individual gifts.)

The Radio Voice of the Gospel is no substitute for personal missionary encounter. It is no panacea for the headaches and frustrations of the work of spreading the Gospel in the Near East. Wisely used, however, RVOG can be a vigorous instrument in helping the Church witness to God's way and His word for hundreds and thousands of people.

* quoted from the bulletin, Radio Voice of the Gospel published by the Radio Project Committee of the Near East Christian Council.

Anna G. Edmonds

5 April 1963

Dear Friends,

Beirut has been host to several NEM visitors recently: in official capacities Robert Avery was there for a meeting of the Literature Committee of the Near East Christian Council; Ann Edmonds represented the Turkey area for the Radio Project Committee; and Melvin Wittler passed through on his way to attend the Executive Committee of the Near East Christian Council meeting in Bahrein February 20-23. He also visited briefly in Kuwait. Dr. Alford Carleton was in Beirut February 15-19. Dr. Carleton has been newly elected president of the American Friends of the Middle East, Inc.

The Board of Managers for Medical Work and both the Turkey School and the Publication Department Boards of Managers have met. The Medical Board was in Talas January 25-26; the Publication Department Board met in Istanbul February 16-17; the Turkey Schools' Board in Tarsus February 24-27. Among the plans resulting from the Schools' Board meeting is an educational conference scheduled for sometime during the next academic year. The tentative theme for the conference is Education Patterns for the Future.

Among milestones recorded by NEM members, present and past, are: the engagement of Alan McCain to Karin Nordstrom of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; the nikâh (Turkish civil wedding ceremony required by law) of Beth Miller and Louis Wilkins which took place in Tarsus on February 24; the marriage of N. Beth Oliver to Edouard Linguri in Izmir on January 26 with all four parents present; the wedding of Carolyn Padelford to Howard Nelson Tuttle at the Memorial Church, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. on February 16; and the wedding of Patricia Rosenkranz to Dr. Jan Bergholt Larsen in Rödning, Sönderjylland, Denmark on March 30.

The Dutch Chapel marked with regret the departure of the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon I. Flynn and their children on January 31. Their present address is: Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ, 466 East Walnut Street, Pasadena, Calif. Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Nilson and family returned to Istanbul on March 9 from a three months' furlough in the United States.

Dr. Edward P. Case died on January 11 in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Case first arrived on the field in 1911; he practiced medicine in Merzifon in 1912 and in 1913 he moved to Erzurum. From 1916 to 1917 he was in Istanbul doing relief medical work.

Miss Isabelle Harley, also on the field at the same time, died the same day in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Commissioned as an educational missionary in 1911, she taught at Euphrates College in Harpoot, at the American Academy for Girls in Üsküdar (serving there as acting principal for three years), and at the Anatolia Girls' School in Thessaloniki with several interruptions until the Second World War.

Mrs. Kate Ainslie Hopkins Cutting, born in Midyat in December of 1883, died in Bryon, Minnesota on March 14. She was a member of the NEM after she finished her schooling and worked in Marash from 1908 to 1922. In 1951 she visited her brother, Dr. Charles A. Ainslie, who is a missionary doctor in Guatamala.

Visitors to the mission have included Dr. Frank Cary, father of Mary Alice Shepard of Aleppo. Dr. Cary was for forty-four years with the United Church Board in Japan and the Philippines as district church worker, teacher and translator. Dr. Howard A. Reed stopped briefly in Istanbul February 25 enroute westward from St. Louis, Missouri to St. Louis, Missouri. The same day Miss Georgia Harkness was also here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Steele from Atatürk University in Erzurum were here February 13-15. He teaches agricultural engineering, she teaches English. Dr. Howard Conn and a group of members of his Plymouth Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, were in Istanbul March

21-24. They came from visiting mission stations throughout the Far East. From here they went to Izmir before continuing westward on their tour. Mr. Christopher King, Secretary for Europe and the Near East of the Division of Inter Church Aid of the World Council of Churches' Office in Geneva was in Istanbul March 22-23. The Rev. and Mrs. Melvyn Pratt of Palo Alto, California, are in the city for a two-month visit with their four children. Mrs. Pratt is the former Saisie Hibbard who served as a nurse in Gaziantep from 1944-1949.

Greetings to the Mission have come from Kathy Hadden (Izmir 1957-1960) who is presently studying at the University of California.

The Annual Summer School sponsored by the Near East Christian Council through its Study Program on Islam is to be held in Jerusalem July 8 through 26, 1963. The purposes of the conference are study, fellowship and practical training for Christian witness. Lectures will be offered in two fields: Comparative Studies, with the theme "Word, Words, and the Word" by Dr. Burton Thurston of the American University of Beirut and by Dr. Johann Bouman of the Near East School of Theology; and in studies in Relationship, with the theme "The Word and the World" with lectures by Dr. Denis Baly of Kenyon College and the Rev. Kenneth Nolin, Associate director of the project. Other outside speakers will be present, and there will be opportunities for advanced study seminars, guided tours of the Holy Land and much informal fellowship and discussion. Enquires should be addressed to the Near East Christian Council Office, Post Box 5376, Beirut, Lebanon.

Anna G. Edmonds

Near East Mission
 United Church Board for World Ministries
 P. K. 142, Istanbul, Turkey
 26 August 1963

Dear Friends,

Eighty-nine representatives, visitors and children gathered in Izmir for the Annual Meeting of the Near East Mission from July 1st through 11th. The major business of the Meeting was the writing and approval of a new Mission Manual. Previous to the Meeting the various Boards of the Turkey Schools and the Publication Department and the medical institutions held their semi-annual meetings there.

Other recent meetings have included the Christian Medical Association meeting held in Beirut in May to which Dr. Richard Updegraff and Hilaria Alaan, RN, went as NEM representatives, and a conference sponsored by the Talas Nute Clinic in April on village health which was attended by people from Istanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep and Izmir. Following Annual Meeting the Izmir Amerikan Kız Koleji was host to 33 people who met for a Community Development Seminar. The seminar was an outgrowth of the Turkish Work Camps Association program, and many of those attending went on to work camps in Turkey, applying what they learned at the seminar to the actual situations. During the conference they visited Yeniköy where a four weeks' village social service project was being carried out by teachers and students from the Izmir Amerikan Kız Koleji and students from the Uskudar Amerikan Kız Lisesi.

Seven people have been studying Turkish this summer at language school in Izmir: Mrs. Lois Huebenthal (administrative assistant in the Mission Office who arrived June 25th) Miss Ruth Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Forsythe, Miss "Peggy" Burden, Mrs. Leonette Wishard and Mrs. Katherine Wells. Other Mission members attended the annual Summer School of the Near East Christian Council Study Program on Islam in Jerusalem in July.

This spring and early summer saw an unusual number of Missions weddings. Beth Miller, RN, was married to Louis Wilkins in a colorful ceremony in the school garden in Talas June 9th. The couple returned to the United States where they plan to study at Duke University. Their address is 211 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Winifred Hertzog was married to Yura Sihon in Istanbul in June. They expect to live in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ophelia Miranda-Menendez was married to Tamer Ergin on June 29th. They are now living in Uskudar. Her husband is employed at the Industrial Development Bank in Istanbul, and she will be teaching home economics at the Amerikan Kız Lisesi this year. Keitha Van Engen and Douglas Herron of the Men's Dershane were married in a simple service at the Dutch Chapel in Istanbul on June 30th. They left Istanbul August 12th and will be at Springfield College in Massachusetts until October. Alice Darnell was married to Lawrence S. Jones, USAF, in the outdoor amphitheater of the Amerikan Kız Koleji the evening of July 10th. The service was conducted by her father, the Rev. Warren Darnell of Long Island, New York, and by the Rev. Everett C. Blake. Both her mother and father had been visiting Izmir and Annual Meeting prior to the wedding. Mrs. Jones will continue to teach this winter.

John Phillips was born in Istanbul on July 12th to the Robert S. Kellers of Talas. He is their fourth child and a grandson of Ruby Birge. Jessica Elaine, the first child of the Peter Davies's of Izmir, was born in Istanbul July 27th. The E. C. Blakes announce a fifth grandchild, David Maynard, an adopted Greek baby of 18 months, now a part of the Lincoln Blake family in Chicago. A daughter, Helene Elize, has been born to the Hans Meyers in Beirut on August 16th. James is the name of the Peter Doghramjis' third son. He was born July 12th.

In addition to the people noted above who have left the Mission, the following should be noted: Miss Anna Williams, Mrs. Frances Severinghaus, Miss Granthia Lavery, Miss Anne Stewart, Miss Clare Dunlap, Miss Karen King, Miss Wilma Mosholder, Miss Virginia Dornbos, Mrs. Faith Drobish, Miss Margaret Hanson, Miss Mary Kutz, Miss Dorothy Pickard, Miss Patricia Russell, Miss May Bryant, RN, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barry and children, Mr. Bradley Bloomer, Mr. Walter Gulick, and Mr. and Mrs. Devon Yoder have returned to the United States after serving one or more years in Turkey. Miss Elizabeth Tuers has left Aleppo College after nine years there to continue graduate study at the University of Michigan; Miss Inez Clinger has retired as Dean of Aleppo College for Girls; and Dr. and Mrs. David M. Stowe and children are now in New York where Dr. Stowe is the Executive Secretary for the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches. To each and all we extend best wishes as they take up new and challenging responsibilities.

The Rev. and Mrs. Walter B. Wiley were honored by their many friends in Istanbul at a farewell reception on May 19th. They left the city May 24th on their way East to join their family in California. Mr. and Mrs. Wiley came to Turkey in 1924, Mrs. Wiley having taught in Beirut 1920-23 before her marriage. For the past two years he has been on leave from the Mission to work with the World Council of Churches Service to Refugees.

A dinner in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. William Sage Woolworth was held June 22nd at the Park Hotel in Istanbul. They have been members of the NEW for 44 and 43 years. On June 30th they started home for their pre-retirement furlough. Post cards and letters from them have come from their stops along the way indicating they are having an interesting and pleasant trip through the Far East. Their address in the United States will be 12 East Palm Street, Redlands, California.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Scott and children, Dr. and Mrs. Warren H. Winkler and children, Miss Harriet Yarrow and Mrs. Gladys Jensen are presently on furlough. Miss Dorothy Blatter returned from furlough July 30th accompanied by Miss Mary Ingle of Anatolia College, Thessaloniki. They had travelled by plane, bus, bicycle-rickshaw, ferry, taxi, train and shikara through Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, Rangoon, New Delhi, Agra, Kashmir, Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz before arriving in Istanbul. They visited with friends and relatives along the way, among them the Lee Espys, Yuiko Nakijima Ota, Alice Gwinn, Ruth Van Meter, and Katharine McElroy Kent who send greetings to all who remember them.

Notes from former Mission members include changes of address for Dr. and Mrs. William L. Nute, Sr., 525 West Sixth Street, Claremont, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Lorrin Shepard, Box 484, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine, 04575; Miss Lillian C. Brauer, 470 California St., Santa Clara, Calif.; the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon I. Flynn, 15923 Lonecrest, Hacienda Heights, Calif.; and Miss Molly Bliss, American University of Beirut Hospital, Beirut, Lebanon. She will be head of the nursing department there. Welcome back to the Near East, Molly! Dr. Howard A. Reed writes of his marriage to Mary Marshall Azeltine. He is presently on a year's leave of absence from the Danforth Foundation to conduct a special study for the Association of American Colleges. His present address is 15 Olympic Way, Alexandria, Virginia.

Visitors to the NEM have included the Rev. and Mrs. Sidney Bunker of Ceylon, parents of Charlotte Bunker; the Rev. and Mrs. C. G. Lomperis and children of the Lutheran Church of America Mission in India; Mr. and Mrs. Preston Hanawalt, parents of Alice Hanawalt Morgan (Izmir 1954-56); the Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Sundberg and daughter, Secretary for the Near East for the Presbyterian Commission in New York; the Rev. and Mrs.

Frederic Groetsema and daughter Gayle; Mr. William Haddad, NECC representative to Annual Meeting; Nafi Donat of Mardin; Mr. John Telfer and sixteen members of a Bible Lands Adventure Tour; the Rev. and Mrs. Masao Yamada from Hawaii; Dr. and Mrs. John Kolars from Princeton and Rutgers; the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Bergfalk and children of Durban, South Africa; Mrs. Clayton, mother-in-law of Jackie Blake Clayton; Mrs. Dunlap, mother of Clare Dunlap; the Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin Weir and children, Commission Representative in Syria and Lebanon; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Morse, and Mrs. McCann, parents and aunt of Marianne Whitman and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robeson, parents of Wally Robeson.

The William L. Nute, Jr. family is enjoying a reunion in Namrun with their two daughters Christie and Irine. Christie will be a freshman this year at Grinnell College; Irine will attend Julliard School of Music in New York City.

The Rev. and Mrs. Edward Radcliff arrived in Istanbul June 5th to begin their duties as minister and minister's wife of the Dutch Chapel. The Radcliffs are no strangers to Istanbul since he was here as a single tutor in the 1920's and they were here together from 1930 to 1933, both times at Robert College.

A new frequency for the Radio Voice of the Gospel has been announced: it may be heard broadcasting in Arabic on the 41 meter band, 7185 megacycles from 20:00 to 21:00, Turkish time.

Mrs. Annie Went Van der Vring, Senior Field Representative of WCC Service to Refugees in Istanbul left in May after having served here for six years. Her replacement, Mr. J. E. A. Bazalgette with his family arrived in early July.

The Mission wishes to extend its condolences to Sam and Anne Glass on the death of her mother Mrs. Frank Williston, May 6th.

The Rev. Frank Stone in cooperation with others in the Mission is preparing a book of worship in Turkish to be called "Sing to the Lord" ("Rabbe İlâhî Okuyun"). The book is primarily for Christians who worship both singly and collectively in Turkish, but it also should be a valuable example of Christian worship material for others. The book will have seven sections: orders of worship, hymns, responsive readings, prayers, selections from our heritage of faith, worship sources: an anthology of prose and poetry, and family worship. Those interested in furthering the project may help by contributing appropriate materials, translating or finding translators, and/or testing by using what has already been produced. Mr. Stone may be addressed at Tarsus College, Tarsus.

According to the spring issue of Peace Corps News a total of 162 volunteers are coming to Turkey: 75 teaching English, 22 math, 22 science and 3 vocational education at the secondary level; 20 home economists, 12 registered nurses and 8 social workers. This is out of a total of 4,000 opportunities in 44 countries.

Anna G. Edmonds

For NEW BOOKS OF THE PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

..... please turn the page.

PUBLICATIONS RECENTLY OFF THE PRESS

The following books should be particularly noted as they all have a religious orientation and each speaks to a different group -

for children - TANRI BENİM DOSTUMDUR (My Friend God by Elaine St. Johns; translated by Mefaret Ersin)

Nilüfer, the heroine of the story is a small girl who has a special friend whom she can't see, but she feels Him everywhere. She calls Him "My Friend God." It is No. 18 in our small books for children; a colorful new edition. 100 krş.

for students - EGZİSTANSİYALİZMİN DURUMU (Existentialist Posture by Roger Shinn; translated by Şehnaz Tiner)

The author shows how Pascal, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, and Kirkegaard contributed to this multi-colored school of thought, how existentialism attracts the religious and the athiestic alike, and how existentialism affects literature, the arts and modern education, and what it means for Christians today. This is a challenging, topical book brilliantly written. 250 krş.

for adults - KUDÜS'TE BİR CUMA GÜNÜ (The City of Wrong by M. Kamel Hussein; translated by Selime Hebel; illustrated by Pat Rosenkranz)

This book published a few years ago in Arabic won a state prize for literature. It has been translated now into many languages and we are proud to be able to offer the Turkish version to you now. Any of you who have been stimulated by the English edition translated by Kenneth Cragg will surely want to share it with your Turkish friends. It makes a wonderful book to use in a discussion group. 400 krş.

for individual or family worship - YUKARI ODA No. 2 (A collection from the Upper Room made by Sylvia Meyer; translated by Harriet Nilson)

This is the second of two editions which have come out of the best selections from the two years, 1956-57, when we published the Upper Room. 25 krş.

NOTE: MOTHER KAZ the delightful English (some Turkish) children's book written and illustrated respectively by Dortha Seelye Franck and Selma Emiroğlu Aykan has not been formerly announced in this publication before. Most of you have seen copies and will want to send them to your American friends. A warning though - the edition was small so do not wait to place your order. 750 krş.

Have you seen our new catalogue? If not, get a copy from the Publication Department Council member in your station. It is both in Turkish and English.

Near East Mission
United Church Board for World Ministries
P. K. 142, Istanbul, Turkey
17 October 1963

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to be able to publish the following report on the conversion of pasture land into forests in north-eastern Turkey. The writer, Elizabeth MacCallum, has lived much of her life in the Near East, first as the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Frederick W. MacCallum, and later as the Canadian Chargé d'Affairs in Beirut.

THE SELF-HELP PROGRAM OF AN ANATOLIAN VILLAGE

This is the story of what a small community in the Vilayet of Erzincan has been doing to rescue itself from decay due to the erosion of its soil. Other villages in Turkey are quite as self-reliant; many, no doubt, have accomplished more. But I tell the story of this village because I've been asked to do so, and because it offers a pattern of self-help which might be useful elsewhere.

The destruction of a large proportion of Turkey's forests by fire, by goats, by the axes of villagers and by careless practices of lumbermen has brought disaster in its wake to many communities. Moisture is no longer retained in the earth when the forests are gone. Springs dry up. In the rainy season first the fertile topsoil is washed away and then what lies beneath. Fields on the mountain plateaus, on the lower slopes and in the valleys benefit at first from the forest loam brought down in the floods but suffer when this is succeeded by deposits of subsoil and stones. Crops grow less abundant. When the yield becomes derisory villagers roll up their bedding and move to the city to swell the already congested population of metropolitan areas. They know of no other way to survive. But the state itself cannot survive indefinitely unless the drift of both soil and population is checked.

Forestry branch officials keep repeating that a proper balance between forest and arable land will not be established until the area now covered by forests is tripled. The state afforestation program is being faithfully applied by forestry officials in isolated and populated areas alike, sometimes at the cost of their lives. But the national program cannot mean that trees will be planted everywhere at once, and the problem of impoverished fields, diminished water supplies and dying villages remains acute in many of the areas where there is no immediate prospect of state afforestation. For villagers living in such areas the alternatives are to go to the city or to fight erosion locally with what strength they can muster themselves.

The people of the village I write of are fighting, some of them from a city base, some of them at home. The mustering of their strength took a few years. In 1951 the nahiye müdür (the local administrative officer), the school teacher and eleven villagers founded a community development society. They did not expect miracles. The villagers were strong individualists. They suspected that local initiatives might not be altogether agreeable to higher authority. The tradition was to wait for guidance from above. Then they would be safe. Who could tell where the assumption of responsibility by persons not charged with that responsibility might lead?

The habit of taking firm joint decisions for village development involving cash expenditure had apparently not taken root before the nahiye müdür and the teacher were transferred elsewhere and several members of the executive committee of the society moved to Istanbul to earn their living. But the society itself did not disband and the principle of co-operative self-help continued to win adherents, for the facts of village life made this inevitable.

Fifty years earlier a diligent farmer had expected a return of about thirty grains of wheat for every grain he sowed. Now, in a good year, the luckiest got twelve grains, and some never got more than three. The pretty village, set in the midst of apricot and mulberry trees and flanked by a poplar grove, was full of children needing to be fed.

A turning-point in the life of the village came in 1959, when the son of a farmer who had long since moved to Istanbul came back to see the place during a period of military service in Erzincan. He had no special training for leadership, no book-learning relating to agriculture or forestry. He was just a young graduate of a technical school of lycée level who knew something about electrical equipment, had played basketball, liked being a member of a team and enjoyed the welcome he received in the compact village of a hundred homes where almost everybody turned out to be a relative of sorts. His sense of responsibility was quickened by what he saw in the village. He dedicated himself to its welfare with the sacrifice of a sheep, and has been president of the community development society ever since.

This young man's work is in Istanbul, where roughly half the male population of the village is employed either on a long-term or a casual-labor basis. Most of them are brewing tea and coffee, or delivering it to customers, or selling buns and cheese, or serving as caretakers or messengers. Many of them live in congested districts, in unenviable conditions. But they have their society, with headquarters two floors below pavement level, where they meet as often as they like to discuss village affairs, hammer out decisions of policy and talk about ways and means. They have learned thoroughly the lesson that close cohesion facilitates the financing of whatever program they adopt.

Most of them hope to return to the village to live, and its regeneration is thus a matter of practical personal concern as well as a source of spiritual satisfaction. Meanwhile membership in the society is preventing individual migrants from losing their sense of identity and thus saves them from aimless drifting in the city and perhaps worse. They know that the people back in the village, who perform all the heavy physical work in connection with the self-help program, look to them for leadership and financial aid. And they give both.

It is this dual base which is one of the principal factors in the society's success. The people of the village have animals and tools, and are not afraid of hard work. The migrants in their cosmopolitan environment have access to modern ideas and have ways and means of collecting funds which simply do not exist in the village itself. Do they need T.L. 1,900 for a new project? Very well. Catch a brace of partridge on the height above the village, bring the birds to Istanbul, have a gala evening and auction them off, requiring each bidder to lay down the difference between his own bid and the preceding one. By midnight the cash will be in hand. Or invent something else that is lively and original and will catch people's interest. The result is always the same - laughter and friendly rivalry, high morale, the attraction of respect from outsiders, and the enhancement of self-respect, which is perhaps the greatest single asset of the society. And the program, devised by themselves for themselves, moves ahead. They have admitted one foreigner to honorary membership, but only - I suspect - because it is her function to put them in touch with other Turks whom they need as partners. They know she will go back and sit in the narthex as soon as the partnerships have been cemented.

The village has a school, a mosque, and a resident midwife. What the society has done is to secure an adequate supply of clean drinking-water, bring general purpose water to the village, press the authorities for a 'jeepable' road to replace the steep and rocky mule-track in use hitherto, and provide the village with a library and reading-room equipped with magazines, 400 books and a radio. Also to begin the planting of a forest on the heights above the village, which have been bare of trees for the past two hundred years. Members talk of a barrage in the valley, a flour mill, electrification, provision for

attendance of gifted village children at a secondary school in town under safe conditions and reliable supervision. Decorously and cautiously they are beginning to talk of unswathing the heads of the village women. Those who have lived in Istanbul for a while with their husbands find it hard, on their return, to tolerate the lead-topped felt cap and the two ankle-length kerchiefs wound round and about their faces so as to leave only the eyes visible. But the cap and the veils are still de rigueur.

The large stone drinking-fountain the villagers have built is the most practical one I have seen in this country. It provides a firm base for pails while they are being filled. Animals drink from lateral stone troughs without disturbing their human neighbours. Water falls from the main spout, through an iron grate set in concrete at ground level, into an almost perpendicular drain which carries the run-off to the orchards below. In order to bring general-purpose water to the village and its fields the villagers dug a trench around the shoulder of the mountain to a stream in the valley beyond. To prevent considerable loss by seepage they later transformed the ditch into a concrete conduit, through which water now rushes down to the fields. But there is still not nearly enough, nor will there be until the barrage is built and the forest has had time to grow. Meanwhile a narrow motor road moves gradually up the face of the mountain. The bulldozer is only three miles away.

It was a man born in the next village, a graduate of the forestry faculty in Istanbul, who told the president of the society that if he and his associates really wanted to restore the fertility of the fields and increase the water-supply permanently the thing to do was to plant a forest where it would do most good. A barrage would silt up if they didn't plant trees on the steep slope above it first. The fields would continue to acquire a fresh blanket of sterile subsoil and stones every year unless they put a stop to erosion. If they did this with trees they would some day have their own fuel supply, a fresh source of loam, and at least a portion of the lumber they needed for village use.

The society decided to plant a forest. They began five years ago by inducing the villagers to dispose of all their goats. They reserved a 25 hectare area above the village for ultimate afforestation. Five hectares became immediately 'forbidden territory'. No animals might pasture there, no shrubs might be cut. Everybody must keep out. The order was enforced, and the shrubs spread, to provide increasing ground cover while the society negotiated for trees.

What the society lacked conspicuously when I first met members of the executive committee in Istanbul in the summer of 1962 was a good working relationship with responsible officials outside the Vilayet of Erzincan. They had been unable to get the seedlings they wanted. Now the forest act makes provision for village forests and they were determined to have one. But one doesn't get trees just by writing for them. There is the question of responsible handling of the stock distributed by any government nursery. There must be some assurance that the seedlings can survive in the soil to which they are transferred, and that they will not be neglected after they are set out. Four years passed.

Having ridden up to the village in September 1962 at the request of the society's executive committee in Istanbul and with the approval of the head of the afforestation division of the forestry branch in Ankara, I found that the villagers were alert, that they understood the necessity of having reliable technical advice, and that they were more than willing to accept such advice and do all the physical work if they could get the trees. There seemed no reason to fear that any of the nursery stock they received would be wasted. So, since forestry headquarters for Erzincan are in the town of Erzurum, I went there at the villagers' request to ask for a technical adviser and a firm promise of government nursery stock for the village.

The head of the Erzurum nursery, though desperate for lack of trained assistants, dropped

other work and went to the village himself when he understood that he would be dealing with intelligent and enterprising people. He was not disappointed by what he found. He gave practical lessons in terracing and preparing the soil and told the villagers what trees were likely to do best. He invited the muhtar to come to the nursery in Erzurum to see with his own eyes how transplanting ought to be done and how to care for the stock. On returning to the village the muhtar brought the first consignment of 13,500 treelets with him and supervised all the work done subsequently.

In September of this year I accepted an invitation to go up to the village again to see what had been accomplished. I found a beautifully terraced slope where 60-65,000 almonds, 7,000 birches, 5,000 pines, 1,000 wild olives, 800-1,000 oaks and 500 elms were growing - some 80,000 trees in all. The casualty rate during the first summer had been almost nil. There would have been several thousand more trees if the ground in Erzurum had not been frozen still when the height above the village thawed out in the early spring, and if the village had not been frozen solid again by the time Erzurum thawed out. This November the villagers hope to plant 100,000 trees, with more to follow in 1964. They have hired a watchman, in the success of whose work everybody has a stake. He receives a small monthly wage from the society and every household in the village gives him a measure of grain.

During his vacation this year the president of the society stopped off in Ankara for two days on his way to the village and met for the first time government officials responsible for helping with village improvement in one way or another. He left for the village loaded with pamphlets and new ideas, pleased to have found in the capital so many persons whom he may regard from now on as comrades-in-arms. Perhaps a little astonished too. Now he is back in Istanbul lining up the winter's work with members of his executive committee at hours when all of them can be off duty. I expect to have little more to do myself. I shall linger in the narthex only a short while, to make sure nothing more is needed which the society cannot do for itself.

What remains is the wider question of how to prevent the running to waste of so much potential strength in the submerged areas of the larger cities, to which villagers continue to flock from all parts of the country. These are enterprising people, who tend to stick together in any case. They would not find it difficult to co-operate to restore the vitality of their home communities if someone would inspire them to organize for the purpose. They know which of their own number are best fitted for leadership and which would make good committee members. Perhaps all they need is to be told that there are several communities in various parts of Turkey which are being regenerated in this way. Where others are succeeding, why not they too?

Elizabeth P. MacCallum

October 15, 1963

Ankara

Anne G. Edmonds, editor

31 October 1963

Dear Friends,

Since the last news issue 24 new people have joined the Near East Mission in the yearly additions to the school staffs: for Aleppo: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Riggs on a 3 year term; for Beirut (NEST): Dr. and Mrs. William Holladay and their four children on a 5 year term; for Izmir: Anne W. Cooney (3 years), Marjorie Holcombe (3 years), Jennie E. Mustapha (1 year), Mrs. Mildred H. Shott (5 years), Mr. and Mrs. Vincent R. Totero (5 years) and Nita Anne Warrick (3 years); for Talas: William C. Amidon (3 years) and Frederick S. Jealous (3 years); for Tarsus: Mr. and Mrs. James W. Armantage (5 years), Stanley F. Pickett (3 years) and Victor W. Zeller (3 years); for Uskudar: Deloris Ann Baird (3 years), Saralaine Evans (3 years), Miriam E. Huber (3 years), Margaret Lane (3 years), Mrs. Caroline W. Lovejoy (5 years), Susan Walcott (3 years) and Jeanine B. Wehr (3 years). Martha Millett accompanied and assisted all but the Holladays and Marjorie Holcombe on the voyage to the Near East as she returned to her position of assistant principal in Uskudar. In addition to these new school people Mrs. Marion Brandon, R.N. has arrived in Izmir to study Language. She will go to Talas for five years joining the clinic staff when they open the clinic in February. Gertrude Ulrich, R.N., is also studying language in Izmir. She is on career appointment. Following her study she will go to the Gaziantep hospital.

Several people have also been hired locally to help fill the teaching and staff vacancies: Susan Bradley and Mary Ellen Cook are teaching in Uskudar; Mrs. Hulda Randall, librarian, Mrs. Marjorie Skinner, director of residence, and Nafi Donat, teacher of beginning English are in Talas; Ashraf Qureshi is teaching in Tarsus; and in Izmir Mrs. Beverly Seamon and Nora Pollard have joined the teaching faculty. Richardson Fowle has been appointed for a 3 year term to Tarsus, the date retroactive to 1962.

The wedding of Julia Ashforth Bergmark to Alan Maury Lester took place August 24 at the Church of the First Unitarian Society in Schenectady, New York. Julia most recently was in Turkey with a business administration and economics exchange program under the Chamber of Commerce the summer of 1962. Many Good Wishes to the couple.

A recent letter from the Raymond Whites of Kansas brought greetings to the Mission. The Whites were at International College in Izmir from 1929 to 1934 and in Mardin-Diyarbakir from 1948 to 1957.

Dr. Lynn A. Scipio, dean of engineering at Robert College from 1912 to 1943 died June 10, at the University Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He was well known to many in the Mission during that time. Just this spring he attended the Robert College Centennial celebrations in Istanbul.

The New Nations Tour, led by the Rev. Theodore Horwath, visited the Mission institutions in Istanbul prior to their visits to many African countries. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the members with the problems, advances and challenges of the newer developing African nations.

Mrs. Ruth West Campbell, teacher of English and art history at Uskudar from 1955 to 1960 and former head of Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Connecticut, visited in Istanbul in early October. At the same time Mrs. Rosalind Reed, formerly of International College of Izmir, was also here. She was joined by her son, A. Mac Lachlan Reed and his wife for a short tour of the Near East. Dr. Harry Dorman, executive secretary of the Near East Christian Council in Beirut, was here October 15 to 19. Dr. William Vickrey of the economics department of Columbia University and his wife were here as they returned home from New Delhi where he had been with a World Bank project studying the problems of coal supply and demand. Rev. L. Alex McCutchen, secretary for the United Mission in Iraq and the Upper Nile with office in New York City, was here October 15 to 17.

A daughter, Sumiye, was born to Yuiko Nakajima Ota (Talas 1958 to 1961) in Tokyo on July 30. The Robert McKays of Tarsus are also parents of a daughter, Elise Ashford, born September 2 in Gaziantep.

A letter from the Woolworths tells of their seeing Yuiko Ota, her daughter, husband and mother and the William Woodards in Japan; Dan Horiuchi and Mr. Freyer (a grandson of Dr. Thom of Mardin) in Hawaii; and Miss Fanny Noyes (nurse in Merzifon) since their return to the United States. They expect to be in their own home 12 East Palm Ave., Redlands, California, by November 1.

Olive Greene (Izmir 1912-13, 1919-1954) writes that she has been entertaining many mission visitors this summer in her own 16' x 20' home in South Harpswell, Maine.

Ruth Wolfe who taught English in Uskudar the winters of 1948 to 1950 is now on retirement in the United States. Her address is 29 Spears Ave., Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barry are now living at 629 South Ferris, Los Angeles 22, Calif.

Arthur Whitman and Dr. Richard Maynard represented the Mission at the Aleppo College Board of Managers when it met in Aleppo October 10 to 12. Dr. William L. Nute, jr. attended a pediatrics seminar October 14 to 17 at Hacettepe Hospital in Ankara. Harriet Yarrow is spending the first part of her furlough teaching at the Gazi Teachers' Institute and at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. Her address is 73/2 Kavaklıdere Caddesi, Kavaklıdere, Ankara.

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Wiley are in the eastern part of the United States until after Christmas visiting their daughter, Carol. Their address there is c/o John H. Kinghorn, R.R. 2, Lake George, New York.

Other visitors in Istanbul have included Dr. and Mrs. Bayard Dodge from September 21 to 23. He is President Emeritus of the American University in Beirut. Mr. John Mahy, husband of Marjorie Kirkpatrick of Uskudar (1955 to 57) was here October 10 to 13. Mr. Gabriel Habib of Beirut, Secretary for Youth Work in the Near East under the World Council of Churches, was here Oct. 18 to 20. His three-year work here is leading up to a Youth Conference in Lebanon in July 1964. The hope is to bring together the young people of all the member churches of the WCC in the Near East -- both Orthodox and Protestant. He expects three languages to be used during the conference - English, Arabic and Greek -- with simultaneous translation.

The Virgil Millers are leaving Ankara November 15 for the United States. Virgil (Tarsus 1954-57) has a graduate assistantship in the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan starting the second term this year.

Luther Fowle writes that his son James is now on the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R.I.

FLASH: Tom D. Goodrich writes: "There is news and for me it is great and glorious news. If I had the patience I would star every letter the way Hyman Kaplan does. Rusty Wright and I are engaged."

Our annual note to new readers: Dear Friends is a publication of news of Near East Missionary activities and interests. It is sent to missionaries on the field and concerned people elsewhere. There is no charge for it; but, since the publication and mailing of it are not without expense, contributions towards its upkeep are gratefully received. Likewise received with gratitude are corrections, amendments, additions.

The new minister of the Dutch Chapel in Istanbul, the Rev. Edward Radcliff, has prepared these comments on World Wide Communion:

"On October 6th at 4 o'clock in Emmanuel Church in the Bible House, there was an observance of World Wide Communion that included three Protestant Armenian Congregations, a Greek Protestant Congregation, two English-speaking Congregations, (Dutch Chapel and the American Military Chapel), and representatives of the World Council of Churches. Hymns sung in Turkish, Armenian and English simultaneously seemed to have an added harmony. The Communication of God's love through the Sacrament of the Bread and the Cup was reverently experienced although the language of administration varied. This observance is about twenty years old but it is beginning to rank with Easter, Christmas and Pentecost as a major observance of Protestant Churches.

"In the Dutch Chapel the same Sunday morning, there was again a unique experience of the Ecumenical spirit and persons representing Anglican, A.M.E. Zion (Negro), Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ (Congregational) were received into the membership of Union Church.

"More dramatically than at other Services in the Church the imagination of the Christian feels at this Communion Service the extent of Christ's influence throughout the kingdoms of this earth and dares to claim an ultimate fulfillment of the promise that the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord."

Teaching:	National	UCBWM	Other
Aleppo	48	7	6
Izmir	23	25	3
NEST	2	1	5
Talas	8	9	0
Tartus	13	13	1
Ukkudar	23	19	3

American	4
British	2
Cyprian	1
French	1
German	2
Indonesian	2
Iranian	2
Lebanese	37
Syrian	638
Turkish	1505
Other	14

Anna G. Edmonds, editor.

The Gold Medallion design taken from a fresco in Rüstem Paşa mosque in Istanbul will shortly appear as a note card. It will be available in red, green or blue. The Publication Department representative in your station will be glad to show you samples when they arrive and help you place your order.

		Tuition	Boarding
Aleppo	LS	350	1200
Upper	LS	595	
Izmir	TL	1120	9350
NEST	TL	600	750
Talas	TL	1250	1800
Tartus	TL	1050	2000
Ukkudar	TL	1400	2000

Note: In addition to the costs to the left, each school has a variety of incidental fees such as those for typing, lab, noon lunch, registration, laundry, piano lessons, 7-day boarders, etc.

		examination
Aleppo		
Izmir		
NEST		
Talas		
Tartus		
Ukkudar		

Degrees, diplomas, certificates:
Brevet diploma, Baccalaureate diploma
Orta, Lycee diploma
B.D., Bachelor of Theology
Orta diploma
Orta, Lycee diploma
Orta, Lycee diploma

School	Commencement (hopefully)
Aleppo	September 15
Izmir	September 15
NEST	October 7
Talas	September 15
Tartus	September 15
Ukkudar	September 15