

Dear Friends:

This is the first issue of News Notes in just two months. I am sorry, and hope that it will not happen again.

Meanwhile Christmas has come and gone, and we are getting into the new year. May it be a full and satisfying one for all of us.

These have been stirring times in Turkey. The cabinet of Adnan Menderes fell in early December, as a result of many pressures, mostly economic. A new party is being formed, the "Freedom Party", and is drawing its strength from those members of the Democrat Party who are dissatisfied with the rate of progress toward freedom of the press and other promised reforms. Adnan Menderes has again become Prime Minister, with a different cabinet (his fourth). Mostly recently, his talk last Sunday in Konya promised an extension of Moslem religious lessons in the public schools. The newspapers have been outspoken in their criticism of this step, as they were a month ago of his implied promise, in Jordan, that the Turkish army would support the Arabs against the Israelis. Stern measures, as yet mostly unspecified, are promised to halt the present inflation. Hope is also held out that foreign exchange will soon be made available to fill pressing needs for tires, cobblers' nails, petroleum products and other key imports.

Mrs. Sofi Huri of our publication department was one of the main speakers invited to participate in the 682nd commemoration of the death of Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi (1207-1273 A.D.) The commemoration was held in Konya on December 16th and 17th. She spoke on "Enelhak'tan Öte Hazreti Mevlana" (Mansur al-Hallaj's self-identification with God transcended by Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi). Her speech has already appeared in a printed volume marking the occasion.

With the school vacations, many of our people have travelled. Frank Stone went to Istanbul and Ankara to meet with Tarsus graduates. The Mid-winter conference to Izmir was attended by Wally and Ruth Robeson from Tarsus, Tom Goodrich and Dr. Nute from Talas, and from Istanbul: Bob and Audrey Tosh, Marily Wheeler, Florence Wishard, Vinal Overing, Marjorie Kirkpatrick, Jean Boniface, and Alice Reed. Bob and Dorothy Keller drove to Istanbul for a visit, bringing Tom Goodrich on his way to Izmir.

Helen Nichol visited Cairo. Anne Mereness, Buford Jones, and Virgil Miller got to some or all of the following: Beirut, Aleppo, and Cyprus. A group from Izmir went to Rhodes, returning in time for Christmas. Horace McMullen has just visited Gaziantep. Dr. and Mrs. Shepard spent a week in Aleppo visiting Fred and Mary Alice. Paul H. Nilson flew from Istanbul to London and thence back via Vienna. Wm. Sage Woolworth spent a week in Ankara following up financial matters and arranging for the import of medicines and vegetable seeds. The Nutes spent Christmas in Ankara. Obviously the ox-cart has been superseded in these parts.

Martha Millet of Scutari School, and Mrs. Otting, who will be connected with the Talas Clinic, have sailings from New York for February 10th, and Ruby Birge has one for April 4th.

Dr. Dora Smith, of the University of Minnesota, is in Turkey on a trip to study literature for children around the world. She has visited Izmir and Ankara and is spending a week in Istanbul, visiting authors, publishers, and teacher-training centers.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Yesterday's Vatan (Newspaper) carried an interesting article giving the comparative prices of food for last year and this. The rise in prices goes all the way from a 6 percent increase in cheese to a 170 percent increase in almonds. Rice has gone up 73 percent and some kinds of olive oil are 80 percent higher than they were last year. The average rise is 45 percent.

Dr. and Mrs. Nute of Talas are happy to announce the arrival of Marian Christie, small daughter born to Maryly Nute Craighill of Kyoto, on December 19th. This the second of their "Japanese" grandchildren. They can boast of ten grandchildren in all.

Miss Constance Shepard who is teaching at Istanbul Women's College this year went to Talas to spend her winter holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Keller (Dorothy Biggs) and other friends.

On Saturday January 7 Scutari School was "at home" to more than one hundred fifty guests who were taken on a tour of the new building. Tea was served in the "game room" on the first floor.

Mr. Woolworth left on January 14 for Beirut to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Near East Christian Council. He then visited Gaziantep, Tarsus, and Ankara, where he is conducting mission business as this goes to press.

Dr. Kirk, President of Columbia University, and Mrs. Kirk, who have been visiting in Istanbul were entertained at a reception in the Shafirvan Room of the Hilton Hotel a week ago. The reception which was sponsored by the Turkish-American University Association gave opportunity for many educators, both Turkish and American to get acquainted.

Richardson Fowle who came back to Turkey last year and has been living in Ankara, is now located in Istanbul. His address is Ufuk Apartmani, TavukUçmaz Sokak No. 4, Cihangir. Upon hearing Rick's street address one is strongly tempted to fall into a pun.

All of her friends are glad to welcome Miss Clary back after her seven months sojourn in the U.S.A. She gave forty-five talks while she was home. Yaşasin, Phoebe!

The Intercontinental Commuters, who live at Scutari and work at the Bible House will be glad to see the repairs on the Galata Bridge come to a conclusion. During the storms in December some of the landing at the Stamboul end of the bridge was damaged, and apparently two or more of the floats were sunk. So for many weeks passengers arriving at that end of the bridge have had to "climb up and over" to get to work. It is a question whether the bridge or the new breakwater at Haydarpaşa will be completed first.

Mrs. Hans Meyer has been spending some time with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nilson, in Diyarbakir. She expects to return to Tarsus soon.

Items gleaned from Christmas mail:

Miss Adelaide Dwight writes that she and Miss Nina Rice are giving up their large apartment at Pilgrim Place for easier quarters. Their new address will be 620 Plymouth Road, Claremont, Calif.

Miss Susan Armstrong is working as librarian in Jewett City, Conn.
Mr. George W. Wilson is now taking charge of the St. Andrews American Church in Athens. He comes to his new post after service at the International Church in Bangkok, Thailand.

Sincerely, Dorothy Blatter

Dear Friends:

I hope you are all feeling friendly friends. By the time I have got through hashing up this news the friendship may be strained. You see, the trouble is this. I am not a particularly editorial sort of person, and when I have one subject weighing pretty heavily on my mind I find it difficult to organise thoughts and ideas enough to write the kind of general news this sheet is expected to hand out.

How do you expect me to write coherently about such things as the terrible weather Turkey has been having for the past two weeks - continuous snow in Istanbul, trains stuck in drifts, no airmail, even some snow in Adana and Tarsus - when all the time my mind is thinking.

Or how am I to go through the letters and notes from faithful correspondents giving news of friends all over the world and get it organised into an interesting write-up when all the time my mind is jumping around its own little tid-bit of news?

Fernie Scovel has been confined to her bed in the Admiral Bristol Hospital for two weeks but from a letter she received it is interesting to learn that the Schinske's (Bob and Dorothy) had a get-together in Minneapolis with Ruth McClintock, Bobbie Helling, Ed Sather, Don Savage, and Söhret Esin (she used to teach in Talas, now nursing I believe). They say Ruth M. is finishing up her PhD work this winter, and Ed Sather (Egad) is to be married this summer. But how do I tie that in with the news that Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Dodd are living in New York City where he is Medical Director for Union Seminary as well as working for the New York Telephone Company? Some how I should also squeeze in the news that Bob Woolworth (son of William Sagó and Pauline) has announced that he and Miss Sylvia Olive Stanley are engaged. . . engaged . . . hmm . . . there is something about that work . . . , Oh Yes! That is what I've been trying to tell you all the time. How am I to be expected to write a news letter about all these other people when all I can think of is that I am engaged to be married to Miss Joan Ellen Boniface English teacher at Usküdar Amerikan Kiz Lisesi? Wheee!

Well now that I have got that off my chest here are some of the other items of news:

Mrs. Edythe Woodley (Mrs. E. C.) since her husband's death last February, lives at 4390 Grand Boulevard, Montreal where she has a small apartment. Her children are living fairly near. The Woodleys were missionaries in Marash and the children were born there. Mr. Woodley was in charge of the Seminary there after Dr. Goodsell left.

Miss Eleanor Mason, who used to be at the Admiral Bristol Hospital in Istanbul, spent her Christmas at work at the U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Va. doing general duty nursing.

Miss Susan Armstrong, who spent some years teaching in Aleppo, is working as librarian in Jewett City Conn., where she grew up.

A letter from the Schinske family, aside from the news that slipped in above, mentions hearing that Mary Kutz is on her way to Southern Rhodesia; Martha Dunbar is in California; Harold Murray has a job in Virginia; Don Savage is teaching at Indiana State Teachers' in Terre Haute but gets up to Minneapolis rather frequently. As for the Schinskes themselves, Dorothy is teaching in a junior high school and likes it better this year than last. Bob is in grad school majoring in zoology and minoring in botany.

I guess that is enough for this time.

Paul H. Nilson

Dear Friends;

FLOODS! FIRES! EARTHQUAKES! It seems that the almost unprecedented snow storms of January and February were not enough for us. Now we are having additional disasters. The floods in Thrace have been particularly heavy around Kirklareli. At Babaeski the famous old bridge built by Sinan has collapsed. A severe earthquake shook the whole western part of Turkey the evening of February 20th, damaging many houses in Eskişehir and the surrounding country. Last night it struck again, and while there have been no lives lost, there is great fear and uncertainty. About 60,000 people, half of the population of Eskişehir, have left the city to take refuge in the nearby towns and villages. As for fires, the town of Gerze, near Sinope on the Black Sea was devastated last week. 833 houses, 300 shops were burned in a great fire which cost the lives of 17 people.

We are losing one Warren and gaining another. Ambassador Avra Warren will soon be leaving and his successor, Fletcher Warren who has been in foreign service since 1921 will be coming to us from Venezuela.

On January 16th Miss Emily McCallum passed away peacefully in her home in Old Phaleron, Athens. She first came to the Near East in 1883, and through long years of service she influenced the lives of hundreds of students in Turkey and Greece. Her life of devotion has been a great inspiration to her fellow workers and friends of many nationalities and creeds.

Among those who attended her funeral in Athens was her niece, Miss Elizabeth MacCallum, Canadian Charge d'Affaires in the Lebanon.

The new director of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. Lawson Kately with his wife and two children arrived in Istanbul last month and is taking up his duties at the Dershane. Mr. and Mrs. Coan will be with us at least until May we are happy to know. The Katelys are living at Bebek.

The March-April issue of "The Upper Room" in Turkish is now on sale at the Bible House and at all mission stations. Have you secured copies for yourself and for at least two friends? Price 25 kuruş.

Miss Scovel is sojourning in Izmir for a while as she rests and recuperates from her bout with jaundice and grippe. We miss her and are glad to hear that she expects to return to us next week.

Mr. Robert Avery is spending this week in Ankara interviewing various people on business matters connected with the Publication Department.

The following news items come to us from Tarsus: "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan was very successfully given by the students and teachers of Tarsus College. The first performance was for students, the second for the Alumni, and friends at their annual alumni banquet, and the third time was for the students of the Tarsus Lise and the Girls' Institute of that city. The one other dramatic endeavor of this year was the presentation of "Le Bourgeois Gentil" (The Would-be Gentleman) just before the Christmas holidays.

The course in English lessons for adults which the teachers of Tarsus have been carrying on has proven very successful. More than 150 applied when the course was started, and although that number could not be accommodated there are still enough students to keep six teachers busy with three lessons a week. A new class of thirty has just been accepted.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Blatter

Dear Friends:

Martha Millet and Mrs. Evelyn Otting arrived in Istanbul this morning aboard the Abazzia, and are already through customs!

Before adjourning for a two-week rest, the Turkish National Assembly voted a sixty-million lira fund for reparations for the people who suffered damage on September sixth and seventh. The money will be paid out in the course of the fiscal year which starts today.

Mary and Luther Fowle found it best to withdraw in November from the constant pressures of financial promotional work in New York. Luther was in a hospital in Boston for a month, and since mid-January they are happily vacationing at Mary's Cape Cod cottage, five minutes' walk from the Atlantic Ocean and a sweeping curve of beach. The address is West Dennis, Massachusetts.

Merrill Isely writes that he has had an opportunity to show pictures on traffic and on forestry to over ten thousand school children in Gaziantep over a period of ten days.

In December Tarsus College dedicated two buildings, "Woolworth Hall" and "Friendship Hall". The Kaymakam unveiled the name-plaques, and there were speeches by Mr. Maynard and by Burhan Bey, the Turkish assistant director.

Bob Keller writes from Talas, "Miss Montgomery has arrived to help us out in our teaching and has proved a remarkably willing person. We look forward to a very rewarding two months with her here." Miss Montgomery is associated with the Evanston Public Schools, and has taught at the Goodrich Girls' School near Peking, China (school named after Tom Goodrich's grandmother!) and is now on her way home after doing voluntary work in India.

Lynn A. Scipio, long Dean of the Engineering School, Robert College, has written a book: "My Thirty Years in Turkey". You may get a copy by sending a check for five dollars to Prof. Sidney N. Fisher, 60 West South Street, Worthington, Ohio.

I have just returned from a week in Ankara, on publication business, and offer the following items--

The Atatürk University will open in Erzurum in 1957 or 1958, with three faculties. The Turkish government has agreed to provide buildings and to take care of the continuing expenses of the school. Certain dollar expenses are being met from American sources. The University of Nebraska has a special interest in the agricultural work that will be offered at this new university.

George Helling is at 46inci Sok. No. 8, Bahçelievler, Ankara for a little while more, then Kayseri for a few weeks, and home this spring. Lawrence Moore, long of Robert College and now a special correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, is at 7 Sumer Street, Yenisehir, Ankara.

And Miss Marian Nossier, once at the Gedik Paşa School, is head of the English Department at the Ankara Maarif Koleji. They now have 3000 students!

The Georgetown Language Center in Ankara has a special four-month course in English for Turkish officials and others who are preparing for advanced work in America. They also have a program of linguistic research, as well as a special program for training teachers of English at the Gazi Eğitim Enstitüsü.

I got into the Grand National Assembly for one of their sessions, and was impressed with the dignified yet informal air of the proceedings. They are having some of their most stirring sessions as they try to finish their work on the budget by March 1st, and at the same time deal with problems like the future of Cyprus, press laws, and the current economic situation.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Spring hasn't hit yet, after all. We've had rain and snow and ice and rain these last few days. But the grass shows green where the snow has melted.

Plans for extended religious education courses in the public schools are beginning to take form. It all began on January 7th when Prime Minister Adnan Menderes promised in a speech at Konya that religious lessons, now current in the primary schools, would be extended to the junior high schools. This proposal apparently took his own party and other government officials by surprise, and there have been lively exchanges in the press about the separation of religion and the state. It now appears that religious lessons will be started in the junior high schools this next fall, using textbooks prepared by the government in the same vein as those now in use in the primary schools, that the courses will be taught by the sociology and philosophy teachers of the schools, will not be obligatory, and will not count among the requirements for passing the year.

The Turkish workers' federation issued a bulletin in Ankara yesterday urging the government to grant unions the right to strike. This right was promised in the Democrat party platform, and has not yet been granted, on the grounds that the unions are not yet strong enough to use this right. Burhan Felek in this morning's Cumhuriyet argues for a more strongly graduated income tax, and especially for an income tax on farm income. At the present time wealthy landowners constitute a privileged class, as their income is exempt from taxation.

The Beirut Mission News Letter for March 1st has the following-- Rev. Paul Seto... has been officially cleared by the Syrian Security Authorities of suspicion and false charges growing out of the December incidents at Aleppo College. The way now seems to be open for Mr. Seto to resume his regular duties at the College.

The Publication Department has just off the press the "Life of Christ Visualized"-- from the triumphal entry to the ascension in pastel colors. It is in comic-book form, and sells for TL 1.25.

Fernie Scovel returned from Izmir last Thursday in time to attend the CAI meeting before she settled down to opening accumulated mail.

The Turkey Schools Board of Managers will meet in Talas commencing on the evening of March 18th.

Merrill Isely tells of a new reforestation project--Six truck-loads of seedlings had been bought, and were to be planted on a second hill near town on a special Arbor Day--March 10th, with wide participation by government officials and school children.

Martha Millet is settling down to a strenuous program of full-time language study, involving living with a Turkish family, and a schedule of formal lessons.

Hans and Sylvia Meyer recently paid a weekend visit to Gaziantep and report that the new motorlu service is swift--seven hours as compared with eleven.

Jean Boniface and Paul Nilson are planning on Uskudar about the middle of June.

Mr. Lawson Kately was formally installed as Director of the Men's Dersane last night, and will spend this spring on full-time language study. Mr. Frank Coan will continue with his responsibilities for the coming months. It is hoped that the Dersane Hostel will continue to increase in fame as a place for men to stay, especially in the summer when there is a lot of room available.

Sincerely, Robert Avery

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, March 24, 1956.

Dear Friends:

Spring vacation time finds Talas busy with the Board of Managers, the Ankara representatives seeking votes in Ege, Izmir Girls, led by Jack Blake seeing Konya and the Cherims to Cyprus.

Leading the Izmir vacationists were the Keiths who flew to Athens and then to Rhodes for a week on the Island discovered this winter vacation by an advance party of hardy Izmir explorers. The Keith trip promises to be more "rahat" thanks to the fishing boat experience of their Izmir friends who made the trip the hard way at Christmas time... Miss Ross, with Mrs. James Metzsker flew to Athens for the holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Metzsker came to Turkey this fall to work with the Turkish Agriculture Department. The Metzskers have become "adopted" members of the Izmir Station Buford Jones is the advance Tarsus Party to come to Istanbul. He was followed later in the vacation by the Maynards who first attended the Board of Managers' Meeting in Talas... By the same token Glenna Buck and Joan Kellogg dropped the Izmir flag down on Istanbul first. They were soon followed by John and Robert Kingsbury, who only dropped their stomachs after the airplane ride. Robert now feels that he will return to a former ambition, and be a Fireman, this jet pilot stuff is a little rough... The Robesons went to Jerusalem, while Vinal Caring and Marilyn Wheeler have gone to Egypt. Other vacationists were Jean Boniface who went to Tarsus, Virgil Miller to Iraq, and Tom Goodrich and Bill Griswold who went to Jerusalem.

The school delegations to the Talas Board of Manager Meetings are: Uskudar: Miss Jessie Martin and Miss Alice Lindsley; Izmir: Mrs. Everett Blake and Miss Naomi Foster. Tarsus: Mr. Donn Kesselheim and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maynard... Miss Marguerite Bicknell attended some of the sessions, after a short trip to Tarsus...

Note to Teachers: Item from paper reports three Antalya boys who were not passing in math, tried to better their chances by climbing into their teacher's house and doctoring his grade book. They were caught... recent American arrivals... Max Thornburg, economist who has done quite a few studies on Turkish affairs in the last few years, and 10,000 tons of Cotton Seed oil...both are promised to help the Turkish economy... Three women representatives in the Assembly announced that they would introduce a bill making the charshaf illegal.

ATTENTION: Halide Edib Adivar's new book The Eastern Western, and American Influences in Turkey came out this month.

The new magazine Din Yolu rates a serious look by all interested in this general subject... it is edited by I. Hakki Baltacioglu from Ankara. The first issue carries some interesting statistics on the religious breakdown here as recorded by the 1950 census: Interesting item from this article: only 561 atheists listed.... Other recent new magazines: Dolmuş, a cartoon magazine in the Akbaba tradition... Çakmak, a weekly feature magazine (First issue begins an interesting series on Masonry.... Yuçel, a cross between Atlantic Monthly and the Journal of Philosophy, which has carried some very interesting articles recently. The current cover features an excellent picture of Einstein, and inside is an equally good article about his views on religion....

Forty-seven teachers and students from Izmir travelled as well as could be expected in a private 3rd Class Train coach this vacation to Konya, Kütahya, Isparta, and the surrounding countryside. With Jack Blake in charge of all the difficult problems, like money, baggage, hotels, food, etc., the four other teachers, led by Miss Esther Carhart, an old hand at school trips (Experience ranges from open 50/8 train trips to hikes...) only had to worry about keeping the girls quiet. Izmir teachers who made the trip, besides Blake and Carhart were: Mrs. Sara Kingsbury, Buff Wang, and Alice Hanawalt. Several seniors, members of Mrs. Kingsbury's Art History class, made a special study of the Selçuk art at Konya, and the ceramics at Kütahya.

Yours, John Kingsbury

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to "Uncle Paul" again. Julia Faith Inscoe, daughter of Joe and May Inscoe (formerly May Nilson) arrived on March 19th at Washington, D.C.

It was good to see David Bergmark who arrived late on Monday evening March 26 and left April 5th. When one can make such a trip between jobs it certainly narrows the Atlantic.

Our sympathy goes out to two of our close friends in the losses they have sustained this week. Sylvia Leaman Seden's infant daughter died on Tuesday at the American Hospital, and word was received of the sudden death of Harold Armstrong's father. Harold (who has been managing the World Council refugee farm) flew home on Thursday.

Buford Jones who has been visiting at Scutari left on Wednesday morning March 28 with Dick and Georgie Maynard who drove back to Tarsus in their new English Ford. Word has come that they arrived safely in Tarsus on Saturday evening with tales of "getting stuck in the snow between Bolu and Ankara, with four men willingly helping push them through six kilometers of exceedingly slippery hard-packed road at one time, and other good deeders helping them out in smaller crises".

Miss Evelyn Woodward formerly of Gedik Paşa and Izmir Schools writes from Scarborough, England, telling of having spoken over the radio (wireless) on a Friendship program. Her message was one of friendship for Turkey and her people.

Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Lewis of Chevy Chase, Md. arrived Friday night and spent three days with their cousin, Dorothy Blatter, sightseeing in Istanbul. They have gone on to Bagdad where Dr. Lewis will head up the Medical Mission to Iraq under the I.C.A.

Miss June Stoll held a reception for her sister at the Park Hotel on the evening of Friday April 7th. Miss Stoll's work with the World Council of Churches will be carried on by Mr. Christopher King, head of the Athens branch of that organization. The best wishes of the American community in Istanbul go with Miss Stoll as she goes into other work.

"The Story of Jesus, Vizualized" which was announced in our last issue has sold over 900 copies in three weeks. Many thanks to the donors in America who made this publication possible.

Tarsus school is again in session after the spring holiday, with all teachers on hand except the Cherims who were unable to get return reservations from Cyprus in time.

Mr. and Mrs. James Allen on their way home from India where they had been visiting American Board work, stopped first in Aleppo, then in Beirut, and flew up to Istanbul. They were sorry not to be able to get to Gaziantep where Mr. Allen's uncle had served, but were able to get a glimpse of the work of the Mission in Istanbul and Izmir before continuing on their way to America.

The highway bridge newly opened across the Euphrates just east of Gaziantep opens up a whole new economic era for the territory to the east, as freight transportation becomes more feasible from the southeastern provinces to the Mediterranean ports.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Blatter

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, April 18, 1956.

Dear Friends:

Spring has finally reached Turkey. We have tulips in our garden, the air smells the way it should, and people are sitting outdoors now on the Bosphorus ferries.

Ramazan began a week ago, and life will be a little different for this month. There was a last rush of open-air political meetings the week before it began. There is now considerable distress in the press because of renewed proposals by the Prime Minister that open-air meetings by the opposition parties be altogether forbidden. Menderes has made a series of speeches recently, in which he has attacked the opposition parties as saboteurs, and has accused the press of being in league to suppress the truth about the accomplishments of the government.

The large dam at Adana was opened with great fanfare last week. It is to have the three functions of flood control, irrigation, and electric power. There have been a number of criticisms of the whole project, which has been a drain on the country's foreign exchange. The necessary irrigation canals from the artificial lake will be very expensive, and may be several years coming. Most of the villagers whose lands are flooded by the lake have not yet been paid and are without shelter or means of support. The benefits to the private stockholders in the hydroelectric plant are said to be disproportionately high. And the benefits of cheap electricity will be small for ordinary consumers, because distribution is such a large proportion of the total charge for electricity.

The Istanbul Suspension Bridge is a lively issue here. Not long ago they were taking soundings at the very foot of Rumeli Hisar Castle, and I stood there and tried to picture a replica of George Washington Bridge, with its approaches winding over the ancient towers on the hillside, and the great inverted arch swooping over toward Anatolia. This bridge would be for a highway only. At one time (before the first World War) there was a project to build a bridge for highway and railroad, from the Palace Point in Istanbul clear over to Üsküdar. This would have made it possible for the lazy Pullman passenger to travel from Paris to Baghdad without changing cars, and, more important, would eliminate the transshipment of through freight.

The Redhouse English-Turkish Dictionary, third printing, is beginning to come back from the binders. It is a good-looking book, somewhat thinner than previous editions because we were able to find good paper. Now we are wondering where we can find even ordinary paper for our current printing program. It has just disappeared from the market.

Ruby Birge is expected in by train tomorrow, after nearly a year in the States. We hope she will be pleased with Tower Cottage, where she once lived and where the Averys now live. She hasn't seen it in its glory and paint, new last summer before we came out.

Helen Morgan will land in Istanbul May second, and will become officially director of the Üsküdar American Girls' College some time in June.

People are beginning to make plans for Annual Meeting in Aleppo, beginning the last week in June. For many of the workers in Turkey, Annual Meeting will be on the way for summer vacation trips to Damascus, Jerusalem, and possibly points south.

A newly renovated and largely modernized Beyazid Public Library will be opened in a ceremony April 24th at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Dr. Alford Capleton arrived in Istanbul by plane last night for five days of consultation concerning Mission problems in the Near East. He will go on to Aleppo, and then to Beirut for a meeting on the Arab refugee question.

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Bliss left Istanbul yesterday morning to return to America after a tour of the Middle East. They visited Beirut, Aleppo, Gaziantep, Tarsus, Adana, Talas, Izmir, and Istanbul with their daughter, Molly Bliss of the American Hospital here. Dr. Bliss, who is a member of the Near East Committee of the Prudential Committee was given this leave from his church in Greenwich, Connecticut, so that he could make this study of the Near East Mission as well as attend the meeting of the Trustees of the American University of Beirut.

Three new books which the Mission Library has just received are "Gift from the Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, "History of Mehmet the Conqueror" by Krotovoulos (translated from the Greek by C. T. Riggs) and "Toward Understanding Islam" by Harry G. Dorman, Jr. The library also has on hand seven copies of the January issue of "The Muslim World". This issue contains Helen Morgan's article on "A Turkish Textbook on Islam". All of these books and periodicals are awaiting your use.

Rev. and Mrs. Richard Rubright, who have been teaching in Sendai, Japan (about 200 miles north of Tokyo) are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Tosh at the Üsküdar School. They are returning to the United States for a year of furlough, to be spent in study in New York City.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Brainard Metheny of Pittsburg. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Metheny, who was with us last fall as he endeavored to settle up business affairs in Mersin.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huntington tells us that she and the Rev. Dumont Clarke will be married on June 10th.

Another book for new literates is ready. "Baba Ocagi" is a small book with the story of the Prodigal Son in the setting of a Turkish village. It sells for twenty-five kuruş.

After one vacation at the Presbyterian summer conference center and vacation spot at Shwayr in the mountains of Lebanon, the Swifts have become most enthusiastic about a center for American Board people and others in Turkey, where families can spend vacations getting acquainted, sharing ideas, and relaxing. The Swifts favor a house on the Marmora, or perhaps on the Black Sea not too far from Istanbul. They would like to hear soon from anyone else who feels this need, and write that they will go over to the Presbyterians again this summer unless rescued immediately.

"News from Turkey", a newsheet put out by the Turkish Information Office in New York, reports that the Ege University is now open in Bornova, near Izmir, and offers advanced instruction in medicine and agriculture, with other departments to be opened shortly. Also: There are 311 Turks studying engineering and 14 studying architecture among the 816 Turkish men and women enrolled in various American colleges and universities this year.

Vatan, one of Istanbul's daily papers, reports that Dr. Eleanor Bisbee has died in California. She was a professor of philosophy at Constantinople College, and after returning to America published many articles, and the book "The New Turks", which is a refreshing introduction to modern Turkey.

Sincerely, Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Paul Nilson of the Bible Society has just returned from a quick trip to Ankara, Kayseri, and Sivas with Mr. Theodore Wieser, who is visiting the Near East for a Swiss organization.

Milada Dolezal writes from 906 Seventh St., Fairbury, Nebraska to friends at Üsküdar. She is teaching, active in music, and until recently was giving as many as three talks a week on the work in Turkey.

The Shah of Iran arrives in Ankara today, and will be in Turkey for two weeks.

Mrs. MacCallum has cracked her hip and is in the hospital in Boston.

The Night of Power (last Monday night) was observed this year with large crowds attending the services in the mosques, and at least one outdoor service. Yesterday was the last day of Sheker Bayram, marking the end of Ramazan, the month of fasting. The other important religious festival of the Moslem year, Kurban Bayrami, begins this year on July 19th and lasts for four days. Kurban Bayrami, or the Feast of Sacrifice, is marked by ceremonies that recall Old Testament customs.

Coffee has come to Istanbul, and for three days now there have been long lines in front of the coffee stores. The feud between the Vali of Istanbul and the butchers of the city continues, but after a week of a virtual butchers' strike the situation seems to have eased somewhat. People still line up for kerosene, but the weather has turned balmy and this must hardly be a serious matter any more.

There is considerable excitement in the newspapers over the sudden removal of sixteen judges, who were retired by the Minister of Justice without explanation. The bars of Ankara and Istanbul have asked and been refused permission to hold meetings to discuss the matter.

Constance Padwick was our guest at the Bible House luncheon table Friday noon, and conversation turned, as it often does, to the MacCallums and their service to Turkey through the years.

Mr. Elmer Douglas of the Methodist Mission in Algeria has spent three days in Istanbul. He will be teaching Islamics at Hartford for the next few years.

Dr. Glora Wysner will be in Istanbul briefly at the end of May, and will be staying with Ruby Birge.

Fern White writes from Diyarbakir: This last Sunday was memorable for two things, a Toni, with which Gladys (Swift) helped me, and a trip to Derik, three hours west of us at the foot of the rugged rocky mountains, but with olive trees in the valley and a fertile plain stretched out in front. We straddled ruts left from winter mud, or jounced along edges of wheat fields, or eased our way over volcanic boulders. But the anemones are out and bird songs delighted our ears. One ugly village was surrounded by inch-wide blue irises. It's only forty-five miles from home but it always takes so long. The welcome, the eager crowd, and the window and sodir draperies hung up after we got there, warmed our hearts. The Easter filmstrips shown by the kerosene projector pleased them. We showed three and promised the other three Sunday night. But when clouds came up late in the afternoon we remembered our nights that we have spent in the mud a couple of times, and we thought of the ruts in the road, picked up our stuff and hustled home.

Sincerely,
Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

This is a season of comings and goings. Various members of the Mission began their perambulations as early as June 12, visiting Diyarbakir, Mardin, and outlying villages, so as to be better informed before Annual Meeting.

The Turkey Schools' Board of Managers met at Tarsus June 24 to 26, and June 27 found nearly the whole Mission being given a WARM welcome at Aleppo College as they gathered for Annual Meeting. Twelve days of business, worship, and fellowship made the meeting a good one. The afternoon swims in the fine pool, and the well-planned excursions to points of interest, not to mention the Aleppo bazaars, enlivened the time so it certainly was not "all work and no play".

At present various members of the Mission are at the four corners of the world:

Marie McGinnis and Marion Schoenheit were last heard from on a French card mailed in Pakistan. They were having engine trouble on a plane somewhere between Manila and Tokyo.

Jean Griswold and son Jimmy are at home in Pasadena, California for the summer.

Ann Edmonds and son Colin have just arrived from a flying visit to see Ann's folks in Boulder, Colorado. With Bill, they returned to Talas on Sunday, July 29.

Isabel Hemingway is enjoying a vacation in Teheran, where she is visiting her sister's family.

Tom Goodrich stopped in Stanboul for a few days on his way home to America.

Mrs. Ruth Campbell of Scutari has been touring Europe and is now in Switzerland.

Miss Bicknell and Dr. Parmelee have been touring the Holy Land and arrived in Istanbul Saturday, July 28.

Ann Mereness is sightseeing in Europe and will soon return.

Dr. and Mrs. William Nute, Sr., are in America, and are expected back in mid-August.

Mrs. Evelyn Otting is touring Europe.

Miss Miriam Hagopian, after retiring from many years' service at Scutari School, is now spending a year in America. She will be lecturing the length and breadth of the land: if your church wants a good speaker, get in touch with Margaret Blemker.

Marilee Wheeler is spending the summer with her parents in Boston.

The Turkish Press and Radio has kept us informed of the progress of our Ararat Adventurers. After a journey across Eastern Turkey by car, train, boat (across Lake Van), and bus, they climbed one of the two peaks of the famous mountain, but snow and extreme cold prevented their reaching the highest point. Those on the expedition were Jack and Lynda Blake, Boulah Wang, Esther Carhart, Alice Hanewalt, Bob and Audrey Tosh, Marjorie Kirkpatrick, and Vinal Overing. More news of them will come later.

This is the tourist season in Istanbul:

The President of Pakistan and his wife have been guests of honor in Turkey for the last week.

The Reverend Maldwyn Vaughan Parry of West Hartford, has been touring the Holy Land and Turkey with Mr. Edmonds, and is now visiting in Stanboul.

Miss Elizabeth Burnham, formerly of the Service Center, and Scutari School, now on her way to take up her post in South India, and Miss Ruth Cross, formerly of Albion, Nebraska, but now of San Antonio, Texas, have been house guests of Dorothy Blatter.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Haehlen and two daughters, friends of the Averys, have been seeing the sights and visiting the Mission work in this city.

A farewell party for Lillian Brauer was held at Scutari School last Thursday. Lillian is in Europe on her way to the States.

Congratulations to Hans and Sylvia Meyer on the arrival of young Christof Friedrich Meyer, on July 12. After six days in the Admiral Bristol Hospital, the young man brought his parents over to Asia, where they are living with him in the small house by the gate, on the Scutari School Compound. His grandmother, Harriet Nilson, arrived there on Tuesday evening.

Peter Lincoln Blake was born to Barbara and John Blake on July 8, in Berkeley, California.

Betty Avery, sent out as a scout to Abana up on the Black Sea, phoned back from the "English-Speaking Camp" there, and told Bob to bring the three oldest children and come along. This camp has been established with the idea of giving students who are studying English an opportunity to talk that language, and every effort is being made to get English speaking people to attend. If you want to go for at least a week, all expenses paid, write to Grafo-Ingilizce, Istiklal Cadd., Beyoglu.

The amusements at Gülhane Park have been drawing thousands daily. If you haven't met the "Mechanical Man" don't fail to do so.

The National Folk Dances, featured each summer, are in full swing at the Open Air Theatre at Harbiye. Each year they seem to get better and better.

The Teachers' Convention held at the Atatürk Kiz Lisesi for the last three weeks has been well attended. Harriet Yarrow has been able to take in nearly all of the sessions and others of our school staffs have attended as they could.

We have just learned of the wedding of Miss Joy Fowle to Mr. Gale Smith in New York on June 19. Mr. Smith is an engineer with the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. News has also just been received of the weddings, about a week apart, of Don Meyering and Ralph Meyering. Our best wishes go to all of these "children of the Mission".

On Monday evening, July 30 a farewell party was held for Miss Jessie Martin. All of Stamboul Station plus various members of other stations, who happened to be in the city, gathered at "Çalidere" (Dorothy Blatter's home) and had supper in the garden. Jessie has written so many farewell songs for so many folks, that we almost asked her to write one for her own farewell party too. Our best wishes go with her as she flies to America on Wednesday, to join her family and begin life in the U.S.A. where "Anything Can Happen".

Sincerely,

Dorothy Blatter, in absence of
the editor.

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, August 20, 1956.

Dear Friends:

Dr. Wm. Nute Jr. and family, teachers for all four of the Turkey schools, and a nurse for Gaziantep, are sailing from New York this week, and are expected in Istanbul on September 5th. Izmir expects Lenore Keene, Gertrude Drury, Melvin and Nancy Wittler, Samuel and Anne Glass, and Barbara Holbrook. Talas expects Robert Jones and David Holmes. Harris Webster and John Wood will go to Tarsus. Hazel Crain and Carolyn Fidelity will go to Uskudar. The new nurse is May Bryant. And the Nutes will join the new children's hospital in Ankara.

The Senior Nutes, who have been in the States for a few weeks, will fly back the end of this month.

Barbara Tinkham has taken up her duties in the Treasury Department, and Fernie Scovel is preparing to leave for Izmir for a year of language study as she goes back into teaching.

Jack Blake will be in Mardin until the end of this month, disposing of movable Mission property there. Marguerite Bicknell has presumably arrived in Mardin by now to help in this work.

Dr. Henry David Gray, of South Church, Hartford, and formerly of Oneonta, California, is in Istanbul with a group of high school students after a trip through Bible lands.

Raymond and Fern White are in Istanbul on vacation. Paul and Harriet Nilson were here, but Paul has gone back to Diyarbakir, and Harriet is staying on at the home of the German pastor with the Meyers and the baby.

Lloyd Swift was here briefly from Beirut, and planned to stop in Tarsus on his way back.

Paul and Jean Nilson are back from Aleppo, Beirut, Damascus, and Jerusalem. They recommend the "Beit es Saadeh" in Damascus (the former "Resthaven") and also recommend the Petra Travel Service, a series of scheduled taxis connecting Damascus, Amman, and Jerusalem.

Horace McMullen sent his son Gary to America to study, driving as far as Istanbul and back to Aleppo.

Florence Wishard, returning from a month's work in Aleppo, reports that the water from the tank in the attic was so hot she used it, as it came, to make tea.

Dorothy Blatter is in Talas for her vacation, and Vinal Overing is putting in a month's work doing art work for books for the Publication Department.

Ali Riza Unal, of the Antakya Reading Room, is in Istanbul at a special course for English teachers.

Lynda Blake will arrive in Istanbul on Monday, and she and Helen Morgan will go to Ankara on Wednesday to see the authorities there on school matters.

John, Sara, and Robbie Kingsbury, after crossing the Aegean for a week in Athens, have come to Istanbul for a visit with the Averys.

David and Nancy Whitelaw, after a month of summer work in Talas, spent a week in Istanbul hoping to see the Averys. But Betty Avery and children couldn't get back from the Black Sea on schedule because high seas kept the eastwise boats ashore, so they missed each other by an hour.

Sincerely,
Robert Avery

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, September 4, 1956.

Dear Friends:

The new arrivals are due in Istanbul tomorrow morning, on the Abazzia. Most of them will stay here two or three days before scattering to their stations.

Dr. and Mrs. Nute, senior, have arrived in Istanbul, and leave this evening for Talas.

Raymond and Fern White left last week for Mardin, after spending their vacation in Istanbul.

James and Mary Louise Johnson are on the way, and are due here September 15th, en route to Talas.

John Scott and family were here a few days, after vacationing near Bandirma. While here, they were shaken up in an auto accident. The car they were riding in ran into a wheel, shed by the car ahead of them on the road. Results were painful, but not serious, except to the car, owned by a former Talas student.

Helen Morgan, in Ankara on business, squeezed in a few days vacation by riding to Tarsus with the Maynards, who had been vacationing in Ankara.

Bob and Audrey Tosh have arrived back in Istanbul from a month's language study in Izmir.

Bob and Dorothy Keller, Ruby Birge, Alice Reed, and Alice Lindsley drove to Saloniki for a few days, and on returning, the Kellers and Ruby drove on to Talas.

Katherine Ross has been travelling in Europe, and leaves Istanbul today for a second year at Izmir.

Bill Griswold is in Istanbul to meet Jean and child, due back by plane today after a summer in the States.

Ethel Lovatt is in Istanbul to meet the new Gaziantep nurse, May Bryant, and take her back to Gaziantep.

Dot Blatter is back today after a vacation in Talas.

Fernie Scovel has cleared her desk in the Treasury Department, and is away visiting friends for a few days, before leaving for Izmir.

Evelyn Otting, who has been travelling in Europe since Annual Meeting, was in Istanbul for a few days before returning Sunday to the clinic in Talas.

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Swanker have visited the American Hospital in Istanbul, and the Shepards report that they have agreed to return toward the end of October to take up regular duties at the Hospital.

Buff Wang arrived here last night to attend a conference of Physical Education teachers being held in this city.

Sincerely,
Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Fall is upon us. Classes have begun at Üsküdar, after a flurry of arriving students. The paper reports a heavy freeze in Diyarbakir. Rains have washed away the dust of an Istanbul summer, and the ferry ride home in the evening pushes through the gathering dusk, with all windows shut against the wind.

Bill Nute, Jr. and family spent several days in Istanbul before setting out for Adana to pack their possessions. They can be addressed at P. K. 75, Adana, until the middle of October, when they will be at their new apartment, Şafak Apartmanı No. 3, Tandogan Meydanı, Ankara. This marks the beginning of an important new venture in Mission policy, as we contribute the services of Dr. Nute to the new children's hospital and pediatric center connected with Ankara University.

Dr. Eugene Nida of the Bible Society was here in Istanbul recently visiting the Nilsons.

Lloyd Swift and family are settled in Beirut for the year (c/o American Mission, Post Box 235). Lloyd is teaching preparatory English at the University, and three of the children will be attending the community school there. They have moved to a pleasant apartment house, and the Ensigns will move to another apartment in the same building.

Alfred Clapp, of Montclair, New Jersey and Colby College, has consented to teach this year at the Üsküdar school, filling a last-minute vacancy on the staff.

John and Sara Kingsbury have been spending a few days with Dorothy Blatter in Üsküdar.

Lynda Blake is due in Istanbul this evening, and will fly to Ankara tomorrow on school business.

Sunday, September 30th, will mark the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Protestant Church in Istanbul, and special services will be held in the Aynali Çeşme Church.

The Publication Department here in Istanbul has made an arrangement with Mrs. Ruth E. Starkey, at the Purchasing Department, American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, by which Mrs. Starkey will fill orders for Near East Calendars and for the six different kinds of colorful note cards. We hope that this will result in smoother service for our friends at home.

The streets of Istanbul are ripped up for repairs, especially on all sides of the Bible House. It compounds the usual congestion of trucks and taxis and wagons in these narrow streets. Meanwhile whole areas of small shops and even large buildings are being cleared away, notably at the Galata end of the main bridge, and there are further projects for wide clear highways up both sides of the Bosphorus. People who have known Istanbul but have not seen it for a year or two would be amazed at the changes.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

We rejoice with **Frank and Barbara Keith** in the birth of their son, **Randall Guy**, in Izmir on September 25th. Frank's mother has come from America for a stay in Izmir.

Hans Meyer's parents are in Tarsus visiting Hans, Sylvia, and the baby. They were here in Istanbul briefly on their way from Germany.

Marie McGinnis writes back to her Üsküdar friends from Garrison, North Dakota. She is settling down again at the same school where she taught four and more years ago, and is teaching English, speaking before groups about her experiences in Turkey, and rejoicing at being home.

The latest Secretarial Letter from Boston announces the appointment of Arthur Whitman as Mission Treasurer. He will come out early in 1957. Art was at Robert College from 1950 to 1953, and since then has been working with the Near East College Association in New York. He will be in the Boston office for the next two or three months, and will spend his first few months on the field doing language study. His address for now is 23 Hillside Ave., Melrose 76, Mass.

The Publication Department has just finished a book for younger girls: "Tatli Dil, Güler Yüz", which is an illustrated translation of "Fenny". It will sell for TL 1.50. Also a new religious paste-in: "The Little Seeds that Grew", which will sell for a lira. We are being showered with welcome books for paste-ins and for gifts as a result of the "Project-of-the-Month" write-up in the September issue of Advance. The Turkish Upper Room for November-December is now on sale.

"The Turkish Twins", a book written by Cahit Uçuk and translated by Dorothy Blatter of our Department, has just been published in English by Jonathan Cape, London. It sells for 8/6. It is beautifully done, well illustrated, and a delight all the way around.

The Publication Department has just received a gift of Pilgrim Press Sunday School materials for all ages, and will be glad to pass them on to people in Turkey who can use them. In English, of course.

A new rate for exchanging dollars to liras was officially announced yesterday. For certain purposes one dollar now buys 5.25 liras. This is intended primarily for the use of tourists in Turkey, but it may turn out to have wider applications.

As a result of a column in an Istanbul paper three weeks ago, there has been a heated discussion in the press of the plight of doctors in Turkey. The first article stated that five hundred Turkish doctors had settled in New York alone, rather than practice in Turkey. Columns, articles, and correspondence since have dwelt on one of two themes: either they have called on the doctors to sacrifice their comfort if need be for the sake of the need of the country, or they have called on the government to provide special inducements, particularly in Anatolia, to make hardship posts less unattractive to trained doctors. Meanwhile the original "five hundred Turkish doctors in New York" have been reduced to a smaller number of medical students doing graduate work in various places in the United States, most of them with full expectation of returning to Turkey.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, November 2, 1956.

Dear Friends;

Sylvia Meyer sends news from the American College, Tarsus:

Our two new teachers, John Wood and Harris Webster, arrived on the tenth of September, and with them the Maynards' nephew, David Mathew. The teachers have already begun Turkish studies and activities, as they get into the school year. David Mathew is studying at the College, with slight variations on the regular program of study. There is also a Danish boy, Stein Jensen, studying here, and when Solveig Cherim gets back from Denmark (her stay there has been prolonged because of health) she will keep him up on his Danish. She is expected back in about two weeks.

Three weeks ago young Christopher's Oma and Opa Meyer arrived from Germany for a month's visit (Oma and Opa being the German Grandma and Grandpa) and somewhat later came Pfarrer Haerberle, the pastor of the German church in Istanbul and of the German Protestants in Turkey. Paul Nilson flew down "on the way to Ankara" where he had Bible Society business, and acted as godfather for Christopher's baptism. So Christopher Meyer was baptized October 17th, in Tarsus, the city of Paul.

Thanks to the interest and energy of Chaplain Alt, the men of the Air Base in Adana are showing quite an interest in the country they are in, and in the work of the Mission here. Some weeks ago they heard Paul Nilson, the elder, give a series of talks about Turkey, and this week they are to hear Frank Stone. Frank is continuing this year to lead services when the chaplain is away. Visitors from the Air Base to the College have developed an interest in the work; they are selling Christmas cards, the proceeds to go toward a scholarship for one of the Christian students here. And there begin to be sports contests between the Air Base personnel and the students of the College.

The teachers are getting out to the historic sites hereabouts: Notably Ayas, whence Marco Polo set out on his journeys, and the castle of Anavarsca described by the Goughs in their book, "Travel into Yesterday".

Mary and Wilson Dodd (Union Theological Seminary, 606 West 122nd St., New York 27) write: We have a wonderful apartment at the Seminary and instead of hearing the donkey bray outside we hear the subway go into the ground just below our corner. We still prefer small-town living.

I have afternoon office hours here at the seminary and am real busy, but not exactly like Texas clinic. Mornings at the Telephone Company. I get up early and take the local subway, so I can get a seat.

Mary has begun work at St. Luke's Hospital mornings. She finds it hard work as they are so terribly short of nurses.

Dorothy is at Vineland training school again.

We have seen a lot of Turkey people: The Nutes Sr., the Luther Fowles (on the Cape) Mrs. MacCallum and the others at Auburndale, Tom Goodrich, the Bergmarks, Jean Griswold and Ann Edmonds plus babies, Roger Monroe, Bill Matthews, and Miss Hagopian. We also met some of this August's outgoing candidates at Orientation at Auburndale. We've often found friends of Turkey and Near East friends here and there. Our greetings to everyone.

The Deweys, Mrs. Helen Orhan, and Mrs. Nute, Sr., left Gaziantep October 12th for a ten days' trip to Antioch, Iskenderun, Tarsus, Selefki, and probably Namrun, all by the new Ford Station Wagon.

Fernie Scovel finally writes from Izmir, where she is immersed in her language study. She lives with a Turkish girl, teaches three hours a week, and takes eleven hours of Turkish lessons, plus all kinds of Turkish activities. Naomi and I are starting our Turkish math lessons, and I also hope to take cooking lessons at the Girls' Institute. They have given permission for the girls in school to speak Turkish to me so I get lots of opportunity to practice."

Constance Padwick has left Istanbul for retirement in England. Her address will be 99 Haughton Road, Hove 4, England, until January first, and then: Turkey Cottage, Maiden Newton, Dorset, where she will be living with her sister, and be near Robin MacCallum, as she works on her biography of Lyman MacCallum.

The Wileys report the birth of a granddaughter, Katherine Hildith, on October 23rd. She is residing with her parents, Graydon and Louise Bell, at 365 South Wilson Ave., Pasadena 5, California.

Merrill Isely reports from Gaziantep that the forest on Duluk Baba is thriving, and that the nine-grave tomb on the same mountain has now been cleaned out. It is an ancient tomb with two cartwheel doors, large stone that roll out from grooves to close the entrance. Luther Fowle saw this tomb years ago, and remarked that it is unusual for such an old tomb to have its cartwheel doors in perfect condition. There are four chambers cut out of the solid rock, all reached by the one entrance. A second tomb, smaller, has a small pillar, or perhaps an altar, in the center. Prospective visitors to Gaziantep please note.

The Schools Board of Managers has just met in Ankara, with a crowded agenda and only a short holiday to do the work. Wm. Sage Woolworth is staying in Ankara a few days after the meeting to do treasury work. Bob Avery spent a few days in Ankara a week ago to see about exchange and import permits, and took the opportunity to teach the adult class at the Jammal Sunday school.

Mary Alice Shepard and children have crossed from Aleppo to Gaziantep; Fred has returned to Aleppo, according to a telegram just received.

We are all anxiously and helplessly watching the developments to the south of us and to the north of us. We have heard that the College in Aleppo was not damaged in last week's trouble. Travellers who had planned trips or meetings in the Arab countries have tentatively cancelled their plans, and the Istanbul airport is overflowing with planes that would normally have passed to the south of us.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

American Board Mission, Post Box 142,
Istanbul, Turkey, November 20, 1956.

Dear Friends:

It seems strange to chronicle our comings and goings while the headlines all around us are black and screaming. Thanksgiving is upon us, and Christmas is hardly a month away. There is nothing that touches us directly in Turkey, any more than there would be at home. Even our schools in Aleppo and Beirut are still open. But the suffering and the uncertainty that surround us make us search for what we have to say, or what we can do, what our witness is. The easy answers do not strike deep enough.

Mrs. J. T. Gordon, Assistant Superintendent of the Oregon Conference, after participating in the Fellowship Tour of Europe with 25 church women, visited mission work in Athens, Istanbul, and Izmir, on her way to visit with a sister in Beirut. She was in Istanbul on her return trip when her visits were cut short by the word that her husband had died suddenly.

Beginning today, gasoline rationing has begun in Istanbul. Transportation on tires between Istanbul and other cities will be greatly reduced until oil flows freely again. Kerosene for heating will be rationed as available.

Sam Glass, of our Izmir school, is in Istanbul on his way back to Washington State, for the draft. Anne is staying on in Izmir. Sam says that the three months' experience have given him a new insight into the life and work of a missionary, and he is anxious to come back and work with us as soon as circumstances permit.

The printing program of the Publication Department is slowly going out of business as our stocks are being sold out and paper for further printing is not forthcoming. We hope for paper either by import or from the government factory, but have no definite word from either yet. We are cleaning out the last of our correspondence cards, and do not plan to reprint, because we will be unable to do retail business after January first.

Winter is gradually settling in, with gray skies and some rain. The good weather has lasted well, and may yet return briefly at least.

Bob Avery spent a few days in Izmir seeing people on publication business. Plane travel makes an easy trip out of what would be a major expedition by ship or train.

Lorin and Virginia Shepard are undergoing a round of farewell parties as they say goodbye to Istanbul after a career of medical work here. They will be in Izmir for Thanksgiving, and then back in Istanbul. They hope to see the Aleppo Shepards at Christmas. (Fred is in Aleppo; Mary Alice and children in Gaziantep.) And they will sail for home in January.

At the supper for the Shepards at Üsküdar last Thursday, they told us tales of people and adventures, of children, and candles in a cave, and days now gone.

Dr. and Mrs. Swanker, who are to succeed the Shepards at the Admiral Bristol Hospital in Istanbul, have been delayed, and will only reach Istanbul at the beginning of the new year.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery

Dear Friends:

Thanksgiving time at ACI, Izmir--a time to count our blessings.

School opened in September with 488 girls enrolled--more than ever before--an increase of nearly 70% over ten years ago. The reasons for the increase were many--a growing city with more families eager to have their daughters receive before marriage, and/or the time when they begin a professional or a business career, an education on the Senior High School level.

It was possible to include the larger number because the classrooms on the second floor of Taner were completed in time for the opening of school. The increase has necessitated a division of the sections--The Preparatory classes are in Bristol, the Junior section in Taner, and the Senior in Parsons. It is possible to use one room in another building for a Music room.

What the members of last June's graduating class are doing shows the trends in the city of Izmir in the second half of the Twentieth Century. There were 28 girls in the class: 5 are already married and two more will be soon; 2 are studying in the United States--one at Bradford (Haverhill, Massachusetts) Junior College, the other at Mankato State Teachers' College, Minnesota--3 are attending the Turkish University (Istanbul, Ankara, and the new branch at Izmir); 1 is teaching for us at ACI, and 2 are working in our office; 12 are in offices in Izmir, where their English is of the greatest value, with typing as an added asset; only one is at home.

The average teaching load for the American staff teacher at ACI is 22 hours a week--plus the guidance of one or more Clubs; supervision of the boarding department for Harriet Yarrow; planning of menus and supervision the domestic servants for Naomi Foster, and for all other teachers assigned duties in the boarding department and on campus; classes in Turkish language; visiting the homes of the students--never an inactive minute for anyone.

A comfortable and most attractive apartment is completed on the third floor (the attic) of Taner, and joyfully occupied by Nancy and David Whitelaw. Improvements have been made in the servants' quarters. The most photogenic building on the campus, the former sanitary building (WC) has been metamorphized into a Co-op--Books and papers are sold in one part, and fruits and nuts in the other.

Gertrude Drury, doing full-time library work in the school library, is also working on the project of a Bookmobile to go out into some of the nearby villages. The cost of books will be met by contributions from the students--through the Student Council--also gifts of books are coming in from the individual girls. (All books in Turkish)

Marguerite Backnell is the sponsor for the Service Club, which furnishes volunteer workers who go to two orphanages each week end, and to two hospitals. The splendid development of character and an awareness of the needs of others is outstanding in the girls who participate.

John Kingsbury has classes in Philosophy as well as his many hours of study of the Turkish language and translation work. He is also helping twelve Judges of the Izmir Court with their first lessons in English.

Joan Kellogg and Glenna Buck are training girls for an operetta--
THE BOY MOZART.

Dec. 6, 1956

Lynda Blake has added hours of teaching in the Language School to her already full program of administration and the teaching of classes in Turkish translation and Family Life.

It is a joy to everyone to have Fernie Scovel back at ACI. Newcomers and all others gain inspiration from her presence. She has added a course in cooking-in the Turkish language and with Turkish women--to her language study work.

Katherine W. Ross

We have had an extraordinary number of visitors passing through Istanbul in the last week or two. Miss Madeline Barot, of the World Council of Churches offices in Geneva, spoke to us of her work as chairman of the emergency committee of the French Protestant Churches.

Dr. Kenneth Cragg, Professor of Islamics at Hartford Seminary, who is on leave to help missionaries in the Near East with organized study of Islam in Turkey for a short visit. He has left Istanbul for Ankara, and will go on to Tarsus, Gaziantep, Izmir, and Talas, where he will attend the mid-winter conference. Then, before the new year, he plans to fly back to Beirut.

Dr. Wm. F. Albright, Professor of Semitic Studies at Johns Hopkins, is in Istanbul for two weeks, after a period in Ankara speaking before groups interested in archeology and Biblical studies.

Dr. and Mrs. R. Pierce Beaver (He is Professor of Missions at Chicago Federated Theological Seminary) are in Istanbul briefly on their way to India.

Dr. Kenneth R. Iverson, of the Ford Foundation office in Beirut, was in Istanbul last week, and expressed pleasure over the new building at Üsküdar, and the work being done in it.

Merrillann Glass, sister of Sam Glass, who had to return to America from Izmir because of the draft, has arrived in Izmir to teach there in his stead.

The Mid-winter Conference will be held in Talas, from December 27th to 31st. Bill and Jean Griswold are co-chairmen.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery