

El Mina, Tripoli, Lebanon,  
April 26, 1954

Dear Friends:

We have again been the recipients of Presbyterian supplies, nine barrels full, of wonderful bed covers, sheets, pillow cases, etc., from the Women's societies of the Presbyterials of Monmouth, Blairsville, Lehigh, Utica, Westchester, Stuben-Elmira, Morris & Orange, Brooklyn-Nassau, Ozone Park, Englestown, Fair Haven, Little Silver, Calliford Beach, Stewart Manor, Oakhurst, and New York City. Every article was very valuable and so we wish to express our grateful thanks to all who were instrumental in helping to fill these barrels.

All the linen is used in the hospital but lately when three Palestinian babies were born in homes where only a rag was found to cover them we gave from our supplies which you formerly sent. One case was particularly sad, the father of a Christian family had a severe stomach ulcer but he continued to sit on a street corner in the damp rainy weather to shine shoes or repair them, in order to gain about 50¢ a day to supplement the meagre U.N.R.W.A. rations, to feed his wife, his three children and himself. In order to pay their room rent and to buy food it had been necessary to sell all mattresses but one and all primus stoves but one, nor did they leave a chair nor a table. The children had to be fed. Then one day he was called home to see a new daughter. Shortly after greeting his wife, he cried out with pain in his head and became unconscious. Friends brought him to the hospital but as he was being carried up the stairs he breathed his last. Within two days the family were to be evicted from the room for non-payment of rent (\$4.00 a month) for their one small damp room and so from the funds of the one great hour of sharing, their room rent was paid and food stuffs sent to them and the hospital sent the baby clothes. It gives one great satisfaction to be able to help a worthy family.



In order that our El Mina's Women Society would feel greater responsibility for giving the women of El Mina an opportunity to join in the observance of the World's Day of Prayer service, 20 of the active members of the society were invited to lunch in the Boyes' home. During and between courses, we had Bible reading, short devotional talks and prayer. Also the President (facing camera) in her opening talk read Pres. Eisenhower's call to all men of good will to observe the day. They were thoroughly enthused with renewed knowledge of their responsibility. At 2 P.M. each member of the society left to gather in friends. It may surprise you to know among the active members was one from the Maronite Church (sect of the Catholics) and seven members of the Greek Orthodox Church. We also had 3 American Missionaries as guests. When the church service started at 3 P.M. 100 women were already seated. We followed the regular programme but, of course, in Arabic. We also presented the Moody film strip, "Silent Miracles" (miracle of the snow flakes which give life as water) as it fitted into the subject very well. As many of the women are unable to read or write in any language, they could understand the description of the pictures, and after



when being served tea, showed their appreciation of the subject in the remarks made as they sat sipping their tea and visiting. It was wonderful to me to realize how the younger women are being well educated these days. It is the Protestant women who have grasped the true meaning of service and are attempting to carry out their ideals by supporting an orphan, helping poor families and sewing for refugees.

On March thirteenth we observed our annual Violet Day service of remembrance and consecration - in remembrance of our first nursing teacher who loved violets and it is held on the date she died which was also her birthday - "truly I say to you...what she had done will be told in memory of her"; and for Florence Nightingale who one hundred years ago organized the first group of women nurses for war service. By unselfish service she carved for herself a "niche in the most enduring of all temples of fame - the hearts of the people". She was known as "A Lady with a lamp" because of Longfellow's poem, "Santa Filomena" two Florence Nightingale lamps were lit on the platform. The subjects of the talks of our nursing teachers and Dr. Boyes, as well as the choir selections, centered around the thought, "Jesus the Light of the World". We are trying to impress our staff, more than ever, with their responsibility as partners in the work of a Mission institution, to spread the message more effectively than ever before. It is a day when we take stock of ourselves and look forward to the future with a determined effort to do more because of a reconsecration of ourselves to the Master's service.



In this service we meet all types of people - rich and poor, Moslem and Christian, educated and uneducated - but all need the message we have to give. Here you see a wealthy Christian woman from the village of Muhardeh, in northern Syria. We are thankful that the border between Syria and Lebanon has been opened and we are again able to receive the people of Syria as patients. The medical facilities in Syria are not as advanced in most of the localities as in Lebanon, and so this woman brought her very sick son into us. He needed a major operation and before she returned to her home, she came in to thank the doctor for restoring her son back to health.

A mother from a near-by village brought her child to the hospital in a dying condition. She was told it might not be possible to cure him but should she care to leave him, all would be done that science could do. She trusted the hospital and after a week, returned to find him well and ready to be carried home. She was so happy to find him well on her return, she burned incense on the stove - a sweet smelling offering to the Lord.



All who enter our doors are welcome - day and night - the doors are never closed. One doctor is always on duty to give instant aid and the evangelist is always anxious to help each one with his problems and to give the message of salvation to patients and visitors. Some of the seed falls on hard ground, some

among the weeds but also there are those that take root and bring forth fruit among the Moslem and luke warm Christian patients. It is such cases that give cause for thanksgiving. For the others we ask your prayers that the seed sown may bring forth fruit. We may never know of the fruition but we know that we plant the seed, another may water it and it is God who gives the increase.



Dr. Boyes joins me in asking that you continue to uphold the work in prayer that we all will be ready for every good work and in all things glorify our Father, thus making our lives count in His service.

Very sincerely,

*Florence R. Boyes*





Pictures on previous page show the Refugee Encampment near the Hospital and the car still loaded with presents having to leave the camp because of disorder.

Left upper picture of Latifeh Zaidan surrounded by doctors and a nurse. Latifeh had been sick for sometime in a camp some distance from us in a camp hospital. Without X-Ray and laboratory the camp doctor was handicapped and so sent her to the K.M.H. She was not afraid to come and be away from the camp, she said, for many other little children have been treated in this hospital and told her not to be afraid for nurses and doctors would be good to her. Dr. Boyes with Miss Hanneh, in charge of the hospital, stand at the foot of the bed.

Right upper picture shows patient Hassan Mur Awaida talking to Dr. Boyes and the evangelist Mr. Hassan Deeb. Mr. Awaida was a wealthy land owner in Palestine but escaped with his family leaving all his wealth behind. Here he started a small store, living in a dark damp room and from the dampness became ill with rheumatism until he could not walk. He was sent into this hospital by U.N.R.W.A. to be cared for and while he is slowly improving he is very much worried about his children because they must live in the damp room and there is no one to buy food for them and the rations are not sufficient. He is talking over his problem with Dr. Boyes and Mr. Deeb. He is thankful for the attention being given to him, and he continually is asking God to bless the hands of the doctor and give him long life.

Lower left shows Mahmoud Ahmed Zarmout with technician and nurse. The rule is all sick refugees, or accident cases must report to an U.N.R.W.A. doctor first; and, if necessary, they will refer the refugee to this hospital. Mahmoud's parents realized he was in a very bad condition after a fall, and so brought him right here. They said they knew this hospital would not refuse to admit such a case without an order from U.N.R.W.A.

Lower right shows the door opened to a waiting crowd who have come to receive milk powder. The refugee's card is being checked by Mrs. Boyes with the list of those to receive it.

#### KENNEDY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

