

No. 687

Near East Mission  
United Church Board for World  
Ministries  
Posta Kutusu 142  
Istanbul, Turkey  
6 February 1980

Dear Friends:

The Turkish government announced a devaluation of the Turkish lira in relation to the dollar of between 33 and 50 % on January 25th. Except in a few special cases such as students abroad who buy their foreign currency here, the dollar is now worth 70 TL. The purpose of the devaluation was to encourage foreign investors and to bring back onto the open market some items which people were hoarding hoping for a better profit. While the intent was also to return the local market to some normalcy, the cost of a number of items went up almost at once, forcing the government to establish new prices. Among the increases are these: cement 12.5%; telephones 100%; boat fares 100%; cigarettes 66.6-100%; alcoholic beverages 66.6-100%; paper & cardboard 90-400%; foreign mail 100-400%; fertilizer 500%; electricity for private city homes 277%; cars 30%.

The plane fare from Istanbul to Ankara and return has been 2,850 TL; it is expected that the new price will be 7,000 TL. At the old exchange rate that was about \$60.00 for an 800 km. round trip; even at the new rate \$100.00 is not expensive in US terms for 500 miles. Most of the boat fares doubled; however, the monthly commuter's ticket between Istanbul and the Princes' Islands went from 250 TL to 1,200 TL. This much increase provoked a protest march to the Istanbul governor's office by ferry passengers on February 4th and a refusal by some people to pay anything. The complaint is being considered and probably there will be an adjustment. A new, Turkish-made Renault car will cost 685,000 TL (\$9,785), a Murat (Fiat) 630,000 TL (\$9,000), and an Anadol (Ford) 524,000 TL (\$7,485). In talking about these prices one should remember that the current gross monthly minimum wage is 5,400 TL, meaning a take-home pay of 3,221 TL after taxes and social security payments have been deducted.

Along with the Denizcilik Bankasi boat passenger and freight fares which were published in the *Resmi Gazete* (Official



Newspaper) on February 4th were the fares for lobster and swordfish. According to the distance travelled, a lobster is charged between 50 and 110 TL a trip; a swordfish under 10 kilos is charged between 70 and 130 TL each; a larger one must pay between 100 and 160 TL. According to the same Official Newspaper, neither the lobster nor the swordfish is subject to any additional seat or food charge during the trip.

Shortages of various supplies still continue in spite of these measures. There is still no secure supply of fuel oil. The January 28th issue of *Milliyet* reports that the town of Tunceli (in the mountains about 50 km. due south of Erzincan) has as its entire monthly supply 25 tons of fuel oil. One single question remains for the people according to the paper: if someone gets sick how can they manage to get him to a doctor?

There is a shortage of heat and a longage of cold, particularly in eastern Turkey where temperatures have been below  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-24^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for more than a week. This has been coupled with heavy snow; it's reported that this is the coldest winter in Turkey for forty years. In Istanbul the price of a *çeki* (250 kilos) of firewood went from 650 TL in the fall to 1,000 TL in January as many people turned to wood stoves to heat their rooms. The shortage of heat has led to another longage: the winter vacation for all primary, middle and lycee schools began January 19th. It was expected to end February 17th. Last week the Ministry of Education extended the vacation period to March 3rd. The first school term had 56 teaching days; the second term at present has been cut down to 52 days, making a total school year of 108 days.

There are other confusions in the country: Anonymous, threatening telephone calls were made November 22nd to two of the Gaziantep hospital staff doctors. As a result, the hospital was not working between the end of November and the first part of December. It is open again now. \* In late December an Orta III Tarsus student was murdered in place of his father. The father had been a former head of the Milli Hareket Partisi (National Action Party). We extend our sympathy to the family and the community for this tragedy. \*The leftist teachers' organization, TÖB-DER, called for a national boycott of classes on December 24th. The boycott was in remembrance of the massacre in Kahraman-



Marash a year ago. This was not a particularly successful protest, and the organizers have since been removed from their jobs.

Several new teachers have come to the Mission schools: Brad Kite arrived January 10 to teach English in Tarsus. His home is in West Virginia. Gunfer Erkman joined the Tarsus staff in December to teach physics. He comes from Cyprus.

Recent visitors to the Mission include John Fairfield, associate treasurer of the UCBWM. He was in Istanbul January 26 to 30 on his way home from Bombay, and was just in time for the storms of devaluation and snow. Edward Savage (Tarsus 1948-51) was in Turkey during the fall, mostly working on a research project in the archives in Istanbul. Nancy Wright's mother, Ann Wright, and her uncle and aunt, Robert and Alice Weld, have been visiting her during the February vacation. Edith Lerrigo is also here visiting her sister, Florence Lerrigo. As reported in the November 21st "Dear Friends", Robert, Richard, Dorothy and David Avery were here for visits with their mother. David was joined by his wife Renee for part of the time. Lorrin Shepard is visiting his parents for three months this winter. At present he is working at the Ayia Napa Conference Center in Cyprus.

Ruth Compton, wife of Carl C. Compton, died in Clearwater, Florida on November 28th. Ruth and Carl graduated from Grinnell College in 1913. Carl spent a term in Turkey, and then together they were appointed missionaries of the Board. They sailed from San Francisco July 18, 1917 headed for Tiflis, Russia with the hope of continuing on to Merzifon in Turkey. Before arriving they spent some time with the Board's relief committee in the Caucasus and then with the YMCA. In 1920 they were in Merzifon, but by 1922 their work had shifted to the Near East Relief. In 1924 when Anatolia College moved to Thessaloniki they went with the school and spent the rest of their very active professional life in Greece until their retirement in 1958. During and just after World War II they served with UNRRA in Greece. Mrs. Compton's home was marked by her graciousness and warmth.

The annual Christmas concerts of the Dutch Chapel Cantata Choir and Orchestra were given on December 21 at the Cathedral of St. Esprit and on December 23rd at the German Protestant Church in Istanbul. William Edmonds directed the 39 member choir and 18 member orchestra in the performances of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Hector Berlioz's *L'Enfance du*



*Christ* (Part II), and J. S. Bach's *Sleepers, Wake!* Soloists included Mehmet Dirisü, tenor, Anna Edmonds and Nancy Wittler, sopranos, Ilksen Topçam, harp, Hrant Guzelyan, bass, Dogan Guvenç, violin, and Ertugrul Sevsay, oboe.

Observances of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Istanbul included an ecumenical service on January 19 in the Armenian Catholic church of Santa Maria. Another ecumenical service had been held in the Cathedral of St. Esprit on November 29 on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Turkey (see "Dear Friends" No. 686).

The wedding of Mari Kristin Cope and Robert G. Edmonds was celebrated in the First Lutheran Church of St. Peter, MN on December 30th. Besides the bride and groom, other Near Easterners present included the groom's parents, Bill and Ann, his brother James (a groomsman) and sister Susie (maid of honor), Lorrin Shepard (a groomsman), Margaret Shepard (Izmir 1976-79), Richard Avery, and Alan, Sally, Betsy and Andrew McCain (Tarsus 1967-73; Alan also Talas 1961-64). Kris is teaching art in the St. Peter high school; Robert is working mornings in an electronics factory and afternoons in the Cherry Creek Theater.

The first issue of *The Journal* has appeared under Jim Boal's editorship. This mimeographed sheet is an outgrowth of the Board schools' science teachers' conference held in Tarsus in September. It arises "out of our need for the professional interchange of ideas among our schools, and the need to express our views of the issues that face us in our work." Inquiries about it and suggestions for a name should be addressed to Jim Boal, Tarsus Amerikan Lisesi, P. K. 6, Tarsus.

Eva Pring (Izmir 1966-70) writes that she is teaching a group of grade school Cambodian children in Grinnell, Iowa, helping them adjust to a new culture.

Anna G. Edmonds, editor



Near East Mission  
United Church Board for World Ministries  
Posta Kutusu 142  
Istanbul, Turkey  
3 March 1980

No. 688

Dear Friends:

CONTRACEPTION PRACTICES  
IN A FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC IN ISTANBUL

by Susan J. Edmonds

Introduction

In the spring of 1979 the author worked for two months at the Admiral Bristol Hospital family planning clinic in Istanbul, Turkey. During those two months data was collected on the characteristics and behavior of the women attending the clinic. The following is a description of the clinic and an analysis of the data generated. The clinic patients make up only a small group of women and are not necessarily representative of the Turkish female population. However, the statistics collected on these women help to demonstrate a demand and a need for family planning services in Turkey.

Government Population Policy

In order to put the clinic into context with the rest of Turkey, one must understand the Turkish government's population policy.

In 1965 the Turkish Grand National Assembly voted to change the pro-natalist policy it had been following by legalizing family planning. In summary, the new policy states: 1) every individual has a right to decide when and how many children to have; 2) the use of contraceptives is legal; 3) abortion and sterilization are illegal except when medically necessary; 4) the Ministry of Health is responsible, with the collaboration of military, governmental, and voluntary organizations, for the education of the public in family planning methods; and 5) the Ministry of Health is authorized to distribute contraceptives or to subsidize companies manufacturing contraceptives to lower the price. Under the Ministry of Health a General Directorate of Population Planning was established that year



to carry out the Ministry of Health's responsibilities established in the new government population policy. To date (spring 1979) the government has established about 500 family planning clinics throughout the country although less than half of them presently are functioning.

According to 1973 government statistics, 236 per thousand married women were using withdrawal as their contraceptive method; 89 per thousand were using a douche; 47 per thousand were using the condom; 48 per thousand were using the pill; 23 per thousand were using the IUD; and 12 per thousand were using foam. The rest, 545 per thousand, were using no method at all.<sup>1</sup>

### Clinic Operation

In May of 1972 Dr. Warren Winkler, the medical director of the Admiral Bristol Hospital in Istanbul began a weekly family planning clinic in the hospital's outpatient department. Dr. Haluk Aker is now the director of this clinic and head of a team of four doctors working in it.

The clinic operates each Thursday afternoon. The staff for a given day consists of two doctors, two nurses, two volunteers and two to four student nurses. The main contraceptive method offered is the IUD, but condoms and the pill are also recommended and provided. Vaginal methods are available but according to the clinic records they are in very little demand.

IUD's are popular because of their practicality. The Lippes Loop (IUD) is manufactured in Turkey by the government and distributed to clinics freely, so it is easily available. This IUD is also the one with the best overall world performance record.<sup>2</sup> The pregnancy rate of women using the IUD is 2 per hundred women-years.<sup>3</sup> Only the pill has a lower pregnancy rate.

The clinic exam including insertion takes less than 10 minutes. This allows a large number of women to be served in one clinic session. The Loop is changed only every five years; after the initial insertion the woman need not think about it until that time is up. This is an advantage for women who are not sufficiently motivated to use daily or pre-exposure contraceptives which take too much time, thought, money and energy. The contraceptive effects of the IUD are reversible.



The Lippes Loop has one major drawback: sometimes it creates side effects in women who have not had children. In this case the clinic has Copper T IUD's which are much more acceptable to these women.

After having an IUD inserted, each woman is asked to return for checkups after her next menstrual period and then at yearly intervals. During the clinic session the women are separated into two groups: those coming for their first visit and those there for a repeat visit (the control group).

This free clinic is financed completely by the hospital; it provides the clinic space, equipment and the entire staff. The cost per patient is 255 Turkish Liras for an IUD insertion (in 1979 about \$9.50) and 105 TL (\$3.90) for the yearly exam.<sup>4</sup> The government aids the clinic by supplying the IUD's, condoms and pills. The patients pay nothing.

One interesting note about the clinic is that its services have not ever been commercially advertised. Patients learn about it by word of mouth from other patients and from the hospital staff. The clinic does print a pamphlet which is made available to each patient, explaining the principles of contraception and follow-up care. The pamphlet suggests that in return for these free family planning services patients have an obligation to tell their friends about the clinic.

### Clinic Population

Because the clinic is not advertised commercially but only by word of mouth, the patients it attracts are automatically a selected group. But the selection is not economically or socially exclusive: from their dress and social behavior the women appear to be from a large variety of backgrounds. Women were interviewed at the clinic who were illiterate, who have advanced university degrees, who have a family income of 2,000 TL per month (\$75.50), and who have a family income of 76,000 TL per month (\$2,868). From these observations it would appear that the lower through the upper middle classes are represented in the statistics, but no data is available to provide exact percentages.

Prematital sex is not socially accepted in Turkey even in the cities. However, this is slowly changing. Thus the estimated percentage of unmarried women in the clinic is about 2%. The given names of the clinic women indicate



ethnic differences in their backgrounds. Some Armenian, Jewish, Greek and European names occur along with the vast majority of Turkish Muslim names. Given the high rate of migration from rural to urban settlements in Turkey, it is probable that a large percentage of these women are ex-villagers.

In spite of their varying backgrounds, the women have in common the fact that they live now in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey. Attitudes towards the acceptability of family planning tend to become more liberal as one goes to the city. These women, whether they were born in the city or had recently migrated there, are influenced by the liberal metropolitan way of life and thus their behavior in participating in the clinic may reflect that. This is true even for village women who have migrated to the city but are still living by village standards. A large percentage of the population of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir lives by such standards around the city edges. Being near people with metropolitan behaviors and having access to modern facilities (i.e. family planning clinics) may affect the behavior of these who are living in the squatters' villages and who come to the clinic.

### Data Collection

The information collected comes from two sources. One is the daily clinic record book. The information in Tables 1 through 4 is derived from this source. The other source is the clinical record card which is kept for each patient. On the card the patient's age, the number of live births, miscarriages, abortions and complications are recorded on the patient's first visit to the clinic. Tables 5 through 8 are derived from these record cards.

Certain variables must be kept in mind when discussing this data and when comparing them to other studies from other samples of populations:

- Behavior concerning family planning varies from rural to urban settlements. Because the clinic women live in and around a large city, they tend to acquire metropolitan behavior.
- The facts that the clinic is privately run and that it is not commercially advertised mean that its clientele do not represent an accurate cross-section of the national or



even of the metropolitan population. The percentage of women in each class does not represent the national population distribution in Turkey: the lower class is probably under-represented. Nor is the age distribution of women necessarily the same as it would be in a national sample of women in the fertile years (ages 15-45).

-- The data are based on clinic records over a period of five years. Other surveys of populations frequently cover just one year.

#### Tables 1 - 4: Patient Visits

The number of patient visits per weekly clinic has risen steadily since the start of the clinic. One factor in the increase is that all those who come once are expected to return for yearly checkups. This causes a cumulative effect in the statistics. In 1973 the average monthly number of patients was 23.7. In 1978 that increased to 129.5 patient visits (Table 1). At the same time there is an actual increase in the number of IUD insertions each year. In 1973 there were 163 IUD insertions; in 1978 that had risen to 592 (Table 4). This increase is evidence that the clinic is becoming more widely known and that there is a growing interest in and knowledge about birth control.

The monthly average numbers of patient visits seems to indicate that the demand for the clinic is seasonal (Tables 2 and 3). The number of women coming to the clinic is higher during the winter and spring and lower in the summer and fall. This probably reflects the fact that many women leave the city during the summer and fall months for their villages and summer homes.

#### Tables 5 - 8: Age Distribution

The largest group of clinic patients fall into the twenty-five to twenty-nine age group with the average age of a patient being twenty-seven (Table 5). This average age is younger than the Turkish national average age of thirty of an IUD acceptor.<sup>5</sup>

#### Fertility

The majority of clinic patients have had two or less children. Compared to the Turkish national average of live births per woman which is 3.8,<sup>6</sup> the clinic average of 2.04 is low (Table 7). A low average of live births is typical of metropolitan



women's reproductive behavior, so this clinic average is not altogether unexpected.

## Abortions

The abortion rate in the patients of this clinic previous to their first clinic visit is very high. Fifty-seven percent of the women have had at least one abortion with the average number of abortions per woman being 1.45 (Table 8). The ratio of abortions to births is 1 to 1.39, compared to the worldwide ratio which is one to three births.<sup>7</sup> One reason for the high abortion rate in the clinic patients may be that women motivated enough to have an abortion would be likely to be those motivated enough to come to a family planning clinic. Thus the clinic may be attracting in particular women who have a high motivation for contraception.

In reporting such a high rate of abortions, one must be reminded that abortions are illegal in Turkey (except in cases of medical necessity). As the high clinic figures show, the law on abortion is not enforced. There are no reliable statistics on the number of abortions done in Turkey, but there have been estimates made which place the figure at between 300,000<sup>8</sup> to 500,000<sup>9</sup> annually. Despite the law, abortion is socially acceptable. It is acceptable in the way that smoking marijuana is acceptable in the United States. Women in the clinic discuss the number of abortions they have had, where they were performed, and how much they cost without much hesitation. Possibly the women discuss the subject freely there because it is a private hospital. If it were a public hospital with government health officials present, the women might be more reticent.

The high abortion rate indicates a desire by the women to control the number of children they have. Women who want to limit the number will use the method they have available. In developing countries where there may be a lack of knowledge about and availability of contraceptives, abortion rates may tend to be high because after one becomes pregnant abortion is the only remaining method.

## Summary

There is no doubt that the Admiral Bristol Hospital family planning clinic is providing a worthwhile and greatly demanded service. The attendance at the clinic has grown steadily since its start in 1972, until it has outgrown the



clinic's physical capacity. In addition to the growing attendance, the clinic patients' reproductive behavior indicates a great need for contraceptive help. The relatively high abortion rate in women previous to their first visit indicates their need for a method of birth control which could replace abortion and which is being met by the clinic's services.

Note: These statistics are not error-free. The clinic records kept on each woman are not always accurate, so they are a possible source of error. Another source of error could be in my own calculations.

### Admiral Bristol Family Planning Clinic Statistics

Table 1: Average Monthly Visits to Clinic

<u>Year</u>	<u>IUD Insertions</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972 (May-Dec)	11.6	01.7	13.3
1973	13.6	10.1	23.7
1974	14.9	22.7	37.6
1975	18.6	33.4	52.0
1976	26.3	40.2	66.5
1977	39.3	56.2	95.5
1978	49.3	80.2	129.5
1979 (Jan-March)	56.7	87.6	144.3

Table 2: Total Monthly Visits to Clinic

<u>Year</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>
1972					17	12	9	8	7	17	23	14
1973	17	34	26	17	35	15	30	16	26	13	28	27
1974	35	37	17	43	60	32	26	37	46	37	39	42
1975	67	42	60	42	60	46	58	45	38	34	78	54
1976	75	50	54	62	56	66	78	55	60	53	102	87
1977	96	94	112	79	43	135	121	67	92	100	86	121
1978	109	120	141	149	141	169	103	104	95	134	136	137
1979	108	107	219									



Table 3: Monthly IUD Insertions

<u>Year</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972					16	12	7	8	6	14	17	13	93
1973	11	24	13	13	18	11	22	5	15	7	12	12	163
1974	20	19	5	20	27	14	7	14	18	22	8	15	189
1975	35	12	17	12	17	22	21	15	15	11	26	21	224
1976	26	20	25	26	20	26	28	16	25	18	42	43	315
1977	30	37	49	32	17	68	32	24	38	42	41	61	471
1978	44	60	58	76	60	64	24	36	34	45	39	52	592
1979	43	35	80										158
Total													2,205

Table 4: Total Yearly Visits

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total IUD Insertions</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972 (M-D)	93	14	107
1973	163	121	284
1974	189	262	451
1975	224	400	624
1976	315	483	798
1977	471	675	1,146
1978	592	962	1,554
1979 (J-M)	158	276	434
Totals	2,205	3,193	5,398

Table 5: Distribution of Clinic Patients by Age Groups

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>No. Patients</u>	<u>Percent</u>
15-19	77	3.7
20-24	582	28.2
25-29	716	34.7
30-34	453	22.0
35-39	184	8.9
40-44	44	2.1
45-49	8	0.4
Total	2,064	100.0



Table 6: No. Live Births per Clinic Patient by Age Group

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Average No. of Children</u>
15-19	.97
20-24	1.44
25-29	1.89
30-34	2.54
35-39	3.19
40-44	3.36
45-49	6.25

Table 7: Distribution of Clinic Patients by No. Live Births Per Patient

<u>No. Children</u>	<u>No. Patients</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0	181	8.8
1	667	32.3
2	702	34.0
3	235	11.4
4	139	6.7
5	66	3.2
6	34	1.6
7	11	0.5
8	14	0.7
9	6	0.3
10	5	0.2
11	1	0.1
12	1	0.1
14	1	0.1
Total	<u>2,063</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Average No. Live Births per Patient: 2.04

Percentage of deaths in all children born to patients: 4%



Table 8: Distribution of Clinic Patients by No. Abortions

<u>No. Abortions</u>	<u>No. Patients</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0	884	42.7
1	475	22.8
2	294	14.2
3	170	8.2
4	100	4.8
5	56	2.7
6	32	1.5
7	15	0.7
8	11	0.5
9	4	0.2
10	8	0.4
11	2	0.1
12	6	0.3
13	3	0.2
14	1	0.1
15	3	0.2
16	1	0.1
17	1	0.1
24	1	0.1
25	1	0.1
Total	<u>2,068</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Average No. Abortions per Patient: 1.45

Ratio of Abortions to Births: 1 - 1.39 (3,028 - 4,196)



## Footnotes

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2. Huber, S., Piotrow, P., Orlans, F. B., and Kemmer, G., "IUD's Reassessed: A Decade of Experience", in Population Reports, Series B, No. 2, January 1975
3. Ibid.
4. From a Cost-Analysis of the Admiral Bristol Hospital family planning clinic by Demir Korutan (not published). Dollar equivalents are quoted at the 1979 rate of \$1.00 equals 26.50 TL.
5. Timur, S. and Fincancıoğlu, N., "Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of Turkish IUD Acceptors", in Turkish Demography: Proceedings of a Conference, Shorter, F. and Güvenç, B., editors, Hacettepe University Publications, Ankara, 1969, p. 182
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7. "1 in 4 Pregnancies Worldwide Ends in Abortion, Survey Finds", in International Herald Tribune, May 2, 1979, p. 4
8. Contribution of the Businessmen in Family Planning, published by the Admiral Bristol Hospital
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Anna G. Edmonds, editor



Near East Mission  
United Church Board for World Ministries  
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Istanbul, Turkey  
14 March 1980

No. 689

Dear Friends:

NEAR EAST MISSION SCHOOLS DATA, 1979-1980 SCHOOL YEAR

	<u>Izmir</u>	<u>Tarsus</u>	<u>Uskudar</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Students and Class Sections</u>				
<i>Prep</i>				
Beginners *	99 - 4	68 - 3	78 - 3	245
Repeaters	2	4	4	10
total	<u>101</u> - 4	<u>72</u> - 3	<u>82</u> - 3	<u>255</u>
<i>Junior High</i>				
Orta I	104 - 3	76 - 3	86 - 2	266
Orta II	113 - 3	79 - 3	77 - 2	269
Orta III *	108 - 3	91 - 3	59 - 2	258
total	<u>325</u> - 9	<u>246</u> - 9	<u>222</u> - 6	<u>793</u>
<i>Senior High</i>				
Lise I	102 - 3	68 - 2	86 - 2	256
Lise II	106 - 3	91 - 3	71 - 2	268
Lise III	<u>95</u> - 3	<u>64</u> - 2	<u>72</u> - 2	<u>231</u>
total	<u>303</u> - 9	<u>223</u> - 7	<u>229</u> - 6	<u>755</u>
<i>School totals</i>	729 - 22	541 - 19	533 - 15	1,803
Turkish citizens	724	541	530	1,795
Others:	American 2	0	1 British	
	Austrian 1		1 Cypriot	
	British 1		1 Italian	
	Dutch 1			
Day students	729	313	383	1,425
Full boarders	0	57	100	157
Part boarders	0	171	50	221
Full scholarship	9	14	10	33
Part scholarship	<u>30</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>81</u>
total	<u>39</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>114</u>

\*Tarsus accepted 34 girls in the beginning prep class in September 1979, 5 girls in Orta III.



	Izmir	Tarsus	Uskudar	Total
Faculty and Staff				
Turkish faculty, full-time	16	14	17	47
(administrators)	(4)	(1)	(3)	(8) <sup>1</sup>
part-time	15	7	9	31
Foreign faculty, full-time	17	21	12	50
(administrators)	(1)	(3)	(5)	(9)
part-time	1	1	2	4
total	<u>49</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>132</u>
Foreign staff, UCBWM long-term	3	8	7	18
Mission associate	4	3	2	9
Overseas contract	8	11	8	27
Locally employed	3	3	0	6
Volunteer	1	1	2	4
Nationality: United States	15	13	12	40
British	3	7	1	11
Cypriot		1		
German			1	
Irish		1		
Office Personnel, full-time	12	9	6	27
part-time	0	1	1	2
Maintenance/services	19	20	29	68

Classes, Facilities			
Total class periods/week	1,014	760	659
Periods taught by administrators	29	32	96
Periods taught by part-time	86	67	118
Library volumes	16,500	14,000	12,802
Periodicals	55	50	40
New books, 1978-79	510	750	763

Last year's expenses in Turkish liras for new books and equipment

70,000	50,000	161,252.50
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<sup>1</sup>. School administrators are considered part of the full-time faculty.



	<i>Izmir</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Uskudar</i>
	<u>Tuition and Fees<sup>2</sup></u>		
Tuition	32,000	22,500	21,000
Boarding, full-time		40,500	19,000
part-time		38,500	17,000
Book fee: min.	750	1,500	1,800
max.	1,000	3,500	3,700
Day student lunch	50 <sup>3</sup>	6,000	9,000
Registration		150 - 375	
Miscellaneous	100 - 250	500	

#### Turkish Lira Resources<sup>4</sup>

Budgeted income			
from fees	22,400,000	16,560,000	15,630,000 TL
Community support	200,000	( <sup>5</sup> )	200,000
Bank interest	50,000	80,000	
Other	350,000	50,000	1,461,000

#### Dollar Resources

UCBWM <sup>6</sup>	\$	37,108	47,000	35,000
Other			14,000	

2. The tuition and fees figures are in Turkish liras as of December 1979. The Izmir school tuition by government approval was raised to 44,800 TL in January. In March the Uskudar tuition was raised to 50,000 TL including full boarding, to 47,000 for part boarding. The Tarsus adjustment has not yet been announced. These increases reflect the pressures of continuing inflation.

3. The Izmir school lunch fee is the optional daily cafeteria charge.

4. The lira resource figures are as of December 1979.

5. The Tarsus Koruma Derneği is willing to support the school up to 1 million TL.

6. There are 9 UCBWM salaries in the Izmir budget, 9 in the Tarsus budget, and 11 in the Uskudar budget.

Dollar amounts should be figured at 47.10 TL to \$1.00; on January 25th the exchange rate became 70.00 TL to \$1.00.



# NEAR EAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, BEIRUT, LEBANON

<u>Students</u>	Boys	Girls	<u>Faculty</u>	
Higher Level	15	7	National teachers, administrators	2
Special	7	3	Foreign teachers, administrators	6
total	22	10	UCBWM full-time	1
			UCBWM part-time	1
Boarders: 17			non-UCBWM full-time	4
Full scholarship: 13			Total teaching faculty	6
Part scholarship: 9			full-time 1, part-time 5	

Graduates in 1979: 6 (Diploma in Theological Studies added in 1978-1979.)

Nationalities: Lebanese 9; Syrian 6; Sudanese 2; English 1; USA 1; Nigeria 1; Jordan 1

Tuition, Fees (Lebanese pounds)		Dollar income from the UCBWM in 1978-1979 was \$16,950 plus one salary.
Tuition:	2,250	
Boarding	1,750	
Room	1,000	
Registration	100	

## ALEPPO COLLEGE, ALEPPO, SYRIA

	<u>Students</u>		<u>Faculty</u>	
	Boys	Girls	Girls' School	Boys' School
Prep	397	311	full-time 18	20
Secondary	314	349	part-time 34	31
total	711	660	52	51

Total student body: 1,371 (all day students)

Tuition, Fees (Syrian pounds)		Dollar income from the UCBWM through the Armenian Union for scholarships in 1978-1979 was \$20,000.
Prep:	500	
Secondary	600	
Registration	10	
Other	25	

Anna G. Edmonds, editor



No. 690

Near East Mission  
United Church Board for  
World Ministries  
Post Box 142  
Istanbul, Turkey  
28 April, 1980

Dear Friends:

NEAR EAST MISSION SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

by Carol Geren, Sylvia Meyer and Nancy Wittler

"How can school personnel cope with the variety of tangling responsibilities and pressures from many groups each claiming varying levels of authority, and at the same time be effective missionaries?"

"How do we as Christians cope with the tensions arising from the violence and threats of violence that we encounter more and more frequently in Turkey these days?"

These were the questions that Mission members dealt with in two meetings held during the semester vacation of the schools - Thursday to Saturday, February 7-9. Underlying both these questions was a third concern, largely unspoken: "How, in this time of unusual problems, separated as we are into our different centers, can we deepen our common fellowship and help and support each other as we face the difficulties?" It was this last concern that brought so many of the Mission together and kept us together through the two and a half days of meeting, and which gave unity to the two separate meetings so that they were, in effect and spirit, two parts of a whole.

The first part was the expanded MEC meeting, called to consider the concern of the schools at being expected to "serve many masters". More than twenty-five people attended.

A planning committee had worked out the discussion topics and circulated questions to help focus and stimulate thought. The discussions



centered on the schools' relationship with each of four bodies: the NEM, the Turkish Ministry of Education, the UCBWM, and the Board of Governors of the schools. The purpose of the day's discussions was to try to pinpoint and share concerns about those relationships: to find those areas where there is lack of clarity, conflict in responsibilities or principles, frustration in working, and to find those areas where there is singleness of purpose and concord.

The day began with a short period of worship led by Sylvia Meyer. It set the tone for Near East Mission members to think of their relationship to the schools and the schools' relationship to these other, very important groups. She spoke about the fact that the Mission is in large part centered in the three schools, and she raised this question: are the schools centered in the Mission? Do Mission and secular roles conflict or is it a situation comparable to the early Church, called to be the Body of Christ in the world? Each person has a special gift and lives according to God's gift to him, obeying God's command. The Mission needs to see itself as one body with one purpose -- to be the saints of God in the world -- doing all things secular for which individuals have been given talents and responsibilities.

Preceding direct discussion of the schools' relationship to the Ministry of Education, the UCBWM, and the Board of Governors, the group worked on the principles that underlie the education offered in the three schools. The following is a synthesis of the discussion, divided into philosophy and goals:

The philosophy underlying education at the Board Schools is founded on a firm belief in respect for the individual and in the importance of individual self-respect. Respect for self, however, is balanced by a belief in responsibility toward others. This responsibility is personal as well as social and requires a person to become involved in the support of his community, the guidance of his nation, and the perservation of his environment. The environment



can best be influenced and shaped by balanced individuals who also remember their work for others, who are aware of the human effects of technology, and who understand the art in science.

The Goals of the schools are:

1. to provide leadership training, 2. to attain academic excellence, 3. to help students develop their individual potential as fully as possible, 4. to encourage belief in the worth of manual work, 5. to foster critical thinking skills, and 6. to provide an environment for intercultural exchange.

The purpose of the day's discussions was not to produce any conclusive statement, but to begin to share concerns and ideas and to lay a foundation for discussion during the 1980 Mission Meeting. At the end of the day everyone was asked to write down three or four points, observations, or questions, that had been touched on in the discussions, that needed to be pursued further at Mission Meeting. The following is a sampling:

- It is important to formulate a stated philosophy that gives direction to and explanation of the Board Schools.
- We have too large and diverse a constituency, too many people to please, orders from too many directions. How can we make this more simple, more flexible?
- The delegating of responsibility to the Board of Governors is unclear.
- We need to develop channels to deal in a creative and perhaps courageous way with increasing problems with the Ministry of Education.
- Tempus fugit.
- A central question is how the Mission ethos can be transmitted to the schools through goal statements, through Mission personnel, or by other means. Can this be organically formulated?
- We must clarify the responsibilities of the school administration, the MEC, the Board of Governors, and the UCBVM to each other.



- How can we maintain some degree of freedom and thus contribute to teacher satisfaction?
- The schools need to develop specific curricular strategies to implement their philosophy of education.

Finally, one participant concisely summed up the day's discussions this way:

It appears that the proper functioning of the student-teacher interaction and attainment of our Mission-oriented goals is threatened with deterioration by virtue of obfuscated relationships among school administrators, Board of Governors, Ministry of Education, and UCBWM bodies. Clarification of goals, educational philosophy and the mechanics of successful school/Board of Governors/Ministry of Education/UCBWM interrelationships were the major concerns expressed.

The second part of the retreat was concerned with the problem of violence. It began with supper and a social hour at Betty Avery's home on Thursday after the close of the MEC meeting, with almost fifty people there. Housing and meeting arrangements were novel: people were housed at scattered homes of Istanbul mission members, and friends, fed at Betty Avery's home across from the topmost tower of Rumeli Hisar, and assembled at Greylock, where the Edmondses and the Meyers provided a large living-room for full sessions and other smaller rooms for meetings of the five small groups.

In such a short period of time with so much to cover, discussion and contemplation (in general, sedentary activities) were necessarily concentrated, and recreation neglected. However, Friday night the Avery house was the scene of a lively Mardi Gras party and balmy weather permitted leisurely and sociable walks from meetings to meals, so recreation was not entirely omitted.



Dr. Verne Fletcher, president of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, led the general sessions, beginning with an exposition of "The Biblical View of Non-Violence", focusing on the life of Christ. He pointed out the temptation that was continually with Christ throughout his public life - the temptation to use political action to bring in the Kingdom of God - and showed how the agony Jesus felt at Gethsemane was thus due to the feeling he had failed in his mission by not finding a non-political way of bringing in this Kingdom. He showed incidents where Jesus responded to violence with gentleness, yet also pointed out occasions where he resisted pressure.

We were asked to consider whether or not the behavior of Christ should and could be a model for Christians in present-day living, and what effect this would have if we did follow him. To that end, the sessions that followed each of Dr. Fletcher's two presentations were spent in small groups, which then reported back to the whole meeting. Since each small group was given a different assignment, the feedback covered a great deal of ground, and each report sparked fresh insight in all of us.

The particular task for the small groups in the afternoon was to study a number of Jesus' encounters in order to find the behavioral patterns which Jesus rejected, to judge what positive patterns he would put in their place, and finally to consider their implications for our own social relationships.

One such encounter studied was Jesus' arrest, when a disciple tried to defend him with his sword; another was a Samaritan village's refusal to accommodate him and his disciples on their way to Jerusalem, and Jesus' own refusal to permit James and John to retaliate. A different sort of encounter was in a young man's request that Jesus make the man's brother share the family inheritance to which Jesus replied with the parable of the rich man who built himself great storehouses, only to lose his life before he could use them. These were all



familiar stories, but answering the questions we were assigned brought out new facets of the conflicts and responses.

The Saturday session concerned immediate situations. Many people were anxious for practical discussions of how one does and should react in violent situations, and the Fletchers were pressed to speak of their experiences in Beirut during the recent difficulties. They told of their feelings of disbelief that such things were happening; of the need to carry on, even when it seemed pointless; of the need to find humor in any lightening of mood; of narrow escapes of people they knew; of the strength they found in their family. Mrs. Fletcher commented that her husband's strength had supported her and that she had only here discovered that he had indeed been afraid! A general discussion followed with many sharing their own experiences or some they had read or heard about. This sharing helped us to know that others have faced and come through similar difficulties and encouraged us to hope that we can find the same strength. But we who wanted specific guidance were reminded that our best preparation is in our day-by-day relationships with our colleagues and with God. In this respect, the retreat did help answer our third concern of how to strengthen our fellowship. Talking and listening to each other, we became closer to each other, and the worship services brought us closer to God. The Communion service at the end, simple and quieting - yet quickening - was a fitting culmination to a stimulating experience.

Anna G. Edmonds,  
editor



No. 691

Near East Mission  
United Church Board for  
World Ministries  
Posta Kutusu 142  
Istanbul, Turkey  
10 May 1980

Dear Friends:

We send a fond farewell to Dr. Margaret R. Blemker who retired May first from her position as Near East Secretary of the UCBWM, and a cordial welcome to her successor, Dr. Dale L. Bishop, with whom we hope to have many fruitful years of association.

The fund for library books at Bir Zeit University, started by the Near East Mission in honor of Dr. Blemker, has now reached more than \$1,000. The university officials welcome the gift as a special contribution to their new library.

A retreat sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee for members of the Near East Mission was held in Istanbul February 8 and 9. Dr. Verne Fletcher, president of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, was the leader; his wife and daughter joined the other forty-five people who met to consider the Christian response to violence and coercion. (A fuller report of the meeting is given in "Dear Friends" No. 690).

Helen Harper has joined the teaching staff of the Izmir school. Helen is hardly a new-comer since she taught English there from 1972 to 1975, and then at the Uskudar school the school year of 1975-1976. We're glad to have her back among us. We're also glad to report Douglas Wallace's regular five-year term appointment. Doug has been a librarian at the Uskudar school since 1976 and a Mission Associate for a couple of years.

Frances Eddy was the greatly surprised and pleased recipient of a round-the-world trip during the dreary days of the last of February and early March. The occasion was Pan Am's inauguration of a flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne on February 27. Besides those cities, Frances also spent some time in Claremont, California (where she saw a number of former NEM members), Tokyo,



Bangkok, and Frankfurt. On her last stop she put on her wool clothes again to prepare for re-entry into Istanbul's unusually long and cold winter.

The Dutch Chapel Cantata Choir and Orchestra, directed by William Edmonds, performed an Easter concert of works by G.P. Telemann, Randall Thompson, and Gabriel Fauré on March 28 and 30 in Istanbul. Soloists were Hrant Güzelyan, Michael Maggart and Derek Bower. William Edmonds himself was solo flautist in two concerts in April and May given by the Istanbul Baroque Music Group.

The annual conference sponsored by the Association of International Churches of Europe and the Middle East took place in Istanbul April 16 to 22. Twenty-six churches were represented by fifty-three ministers, their wives and lay delegates. Those attending spent quite a bit of time in contacts with the local Christian communities and in briefing sessions, arranged by Melvin Wittler, on Turkey and its place in world affairs. They had audiences with both His All Holiness, Demetrios I, Ecumenical Patriarch (Greek Orthodox) and His Beatitude, Chnork Kalustyan, Patriarch of the Armenian Orthodox Church. Following the conference, forty of the members took an extra week to tour the sites of the seven churches of Revelation. They also saw Aphrodisias and Colossae. The long walk in the afternoon up the road from Colossae to the waiting bus reminded one of the ministers that Paul had admonished fellow travellers in Colossians 3:2 to "Set your minds on things that are above," and several other ministers that Paul contented himself with writing letters instead of going in person. Much of the organization of the conference was handled by the Dutch Chapel minister, Rev. Gregory Seeber; Anna Edmonds helped in guiding the tour; and all of the members of the Dutch Chapel offered hospitality to the out-of-town guests and back-up on the many details of a smoothly running meeting.

The appointment of Cerina L. and Richard W. Blakney to the Near East Mission to work with Redhouse Press has been announced. Richard has been a Peace Corps worker in the Philippines where he met his wife, Cerina, and where their son, Raymond Charles, was born November 11, 1979. We look forward to their being in Istanbul by



August to begin their Turkish language study. Richard's grandparents, Laura and Raymond Blakney, were with the Near East Mission in Athens from 1957 to 1961 when Dr. Blakney was president of Pierce College. His father, Charles Blakney, is currently a member of the UCBWM Board of Directors.

This spring sees the retirements of Frances Eddy and Gwen Scott from the Near East Mission. They were honored by the Mission at a dinner on May 9th at the Çapari Restaurant in Istinye, Istanbul. Frances Eddy has been the administrative secretary in the Mission office since June 1970; Gwen Scott (and her husband John) was at the boys' school in Talas from November 1946 until 1960 when they were transferred to the girls' school in Uskudar. Gwen has taught English all these years and presently is the foreign vice principal of the Uskudar School. Appreciation for their contributions was expressed through song, speech, skit and gifts.

In recognition of John Scott's deep interest in social concerns and his life-long work involving students in projects such as the bookmobile and work camps, the "Social Service Week" at Uskudar was renamed the "John Scott Week" this year. The observance was held April 4 to 11 in cooperation with the Social Service Branch and its advisor, Lalegül Ergun. It focused attention on the elderly in Turkish society.

Thelma Belair, volunteer who has been working since November in the Mission office and at the Uskudar school, returned to the States on May 5th. Thanks for your help. She and her friend, Katherine Tucker (most recently from Zambia, but before that she was on the medical desk of the Board), were among the members of the Seven Churches Tour.

Recent visitors to Istanbul have included Whitman Shepard and Tony Delity. Both young men were Peace Corps teachers in Swaziland and are now back in the United States on completion of their terms. They were visiting Whitman's parents, Fred and Mary Alice Shepard, in Istanbul for several weeks. Other Shepard family news is of the birth of Jennifer Cary to Ed and Susan (Shepard) Druback on April 4th. Here's to much happiness for her, her parents,



grandparents, and great grandparents!

We note with regret that Douglas and Lois Hill have decided that they cannot return to Turkey at the present time. Doug has been the Missionary in Residence in New York this year and has been very busy helping recruit personnel for the Board's work around the world.

The deaths have occurred of two people associated with the Mission: Mrs. Mildred Shott who taught business courses at the school in Izmir from 1963 to 1965 died just before Thanksgiving. She was living near her son in Kentucky at the time. Dr. Cemil Ozbal, long-time doctor at the Gaziantep hospital and close friend of many Mission members, died in Izmir on March 13. Dr. Cemil Bey was the head of the surgical service at the hospital for many years and the responsible director of it from 1975 to 1977. The fathers of two Tarsus teachers, Katherine Hatt and David Hall, died this spring. Both Katherine and David were able to be with them briefly. We were also saddened and shocked by the murder of the son of Bishop Hassan Dahqani-Tafti in Iran early this week. The Bishop has been living in Cyprus since an attack on him late last year, according to the BBC report. Our sympathies go to all the families in their bereavement.

The 1980 Mission meeting is being planned for July 4-6 to be held at the Uskudar school. Dr. Dale L. Bishop, the new Near East Secretary, is expected to attend it as his first official visit to the field.

A new zip code has just gone into effect for the Interchurch Center. From now on letters addressed to 475 Riverside Drive should carry the code 10115. This replaces the zip number 10027. The new number, 10115, is only for the Interchurch Center building; other addresses retain their previous numbers.

Financial ups and downs include the news that recently both the City Bank of New York and the



American Express International Banking Corporation have decided to open full banking services in Istanbul. That's the up. The down is that on April 2nd the Turkish lira took another dip, this time only slight. At present the lira is worth 73.10 to one dollar.

Fatih Erdoğan's Pan ve Çiçeği (Pan and his Flower), number two in the Redhouse Press TV Oyunu series, was given first prize for children's picture books in the Istanbul International Childrens Fair held at the Atatürk Library at Taksim in April. Second prize went to Zafer Sükan (an Uskudar graduate and teacher), author of Mahallenin Uçurtması (the Neighborhood Kite), published by Yapi ve Kredi Bankası.

Several other Redhouse Press books have recently appeared: Evcil Hayvanlar (Pets and Their Care) by Eşref Sakarya, Meyvalar (Fruits, an educational preschool card series) by Sahir Erdiñç, and Bende Yaparım (I Can Do It, Too, a creative activity book for preschoolers emphasizing self-awareness and the social environment) by Kari Çağıtay and Emir Sarier. Siz ve Çocuğunuz (Between Parent and Child) by H. Ginnot and Okul Öncesi Eğitim Elkitabı (preschool education handbook) by Zafer Sükan and others have been reprinted.

The World Day of Prayer was celebrated with services in Istanbul at Aya Ephemia in Moda and St. Esprit in Harbiye on March 7th. The service was repeated at the Dutch Chapel on March 9th. This year's worship program had been prepared by women in Thailand.

The annual Tarsus school kermes was held on Saturday, May 3rd, and netted 250,000 TL. The kermes of the Izmir school takes place today, May 10, and that of the Uskudar school a bit later. Tarsus also reports on an interesting program presented there by Nimetullah Gerasim who exhibited his pictures and Veli Gerasim who played a piano recital on May 5th. The recital was the first concert given using the new piano at the school. The play, Billy Budd, directed by Jim O'Dea, was performed by the Tarsus



students recently.

There are a number of job openings in the Near East Mission: Our three schools are seeking teachers of English, math, girls' physical education, physics, chemistry, earth science, general science, German, French, typing and business English. There are administrative positions open in the schools for two principals (Uskudar and Izmir) and for administrative assistants at Uskudar and Tarsus. At the Redhouse Press a person is needed for editorial work. The Near East Mission office is seeking an executive assistant to work with the Mission secretary and Mission associate secretary.

Inquiries concerning any of these positions should be addressed to the Overseas Personnel Office, UCBW11, 475 Riverside Drive, 16th floor, New York, New York, 10115. Persons residing in Turkey may write to Dr. Frederick Shepard, Near East Mission Associate Secretary, P.K. 142, Istanbul.

Anna G. Edmonds, editor



Near East Mission  
United Church Board for  
World Ministries

Posta Kutusu 142

Istanbul, Turkey

28 August 1980

No. 692

Dear Friends:

Throughout this summer there have been a number of items in the local newspapers of somewhat more than passing interest. We repeat these here in the hope that together they will give some idea of day-to-day events in the country.

Several articles concern the museum of St. Irene, which according to tradition was one of the first Christian churches in the city. For several years recently during the Istanbul Music and Arts Festival in early summer St. Irene has been used as a concert hall. This year, for instance, on July 4th the Turkish Radio and Television Ankara Chamber Orchestra directed by Gurer Aykal played Tchaikovsky's Serenade in C, Haydn's Violin Concerto No. 1 (Suna Kan was solo violinist), and one of the Telemann Tafelmusik suites. A week later the TRT Polyphonic Music Chorus performed there. Their last number was J.S. Bach's Jesu Meine Freunde. On July 6th St. Irene was used as a theater for the first time; Erol Keskin directed Montserrat by Emmanuel Robles. The story of Montserrat is about Simon Bolivar's fight to free South America from Spanish control. More recently, Sabahattin Türkoğlu, the director of the Museum of St. Sophia, announced that St. Irene is to be used for classical western music concerts throughout the year. The building, of course, has no heating, but in spite of that it's tempting to think of what could be done there.

The Sultan's loge in St. Sophia which was begun by Sultan Mahmu and enlarged by Sultan Abdülmecit was opened as a mescit (small mosque) for public prayers on the Night of Power (August 7). It will continue to be used as a mescit regularly from now on. The Minister of Culture, Tefvik Koraltan, announced that the Kuran would be read continuously every day in the Hırka-ı Saadet room (which contains relics of the Prophet Muhammed) at Topkapı Palace. He also said that the items in the military museum in Harbiye would be moved to Topkapı.

Turkish Air Lines (THY) has begun several new flights this



summer. For the first time in six years there is service between Istanbul and Athens. Flights leave Istanbul at 11:40 Mondays and Wednesdays and at 17:00 Fridays. Presumably there are return flights the same days. There are also regular THY flights from Istanbul to Cairo for the first time in 24 years, and from Adana to Baghdad. Night flights between Ankara and Istanbul on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and between Izmir and Istanbul on Sunday and Monday are now half-price. Direct flights for THY charter planes will begin shortly between Germany and Izmir, Erzurum, Diyarbakir, Adana and Antalya.

Regular boat service between Marmaris and Rhodes had trouble when it started up after a six-year lapse. The passenger boat Gemlik caused a turmoil when passengers from Turkey tried to land in Rhodes on July 15th. The protest was a local one by merchants who were still objecting to Turkey's intervention in Cyprus in 1974 and who anticipated that frequent ferries to Turkey would hurt their tourist trade. After about a week of protests each time the Turkish boat tried to dock, normal service has been established.

A private company, Erkal, has been operating a hydrofoil service between Istanbul and points on the Sea of Marmara. Their boats leave a landing in Kabataş for Çınarcık, Gemlik, Yalova and Mudanya. Those going to Mudanya leave twice a day at 8 am and 17:30. The trip takes 1 1/2 hours and costs 750 TL one way. There is a bus connection with that boat to take passengers on to Izmir. That total trip lasts 7 1/2 hours and costs 1,110 TL (in comparison to a trip all the way by bus which takes about 11 hours and costs 650 TL). The company has two boats, the Erkal I and the Şirzat I.

Two ships of a different kind, this time research-military boats, were commissioned in Istanbul on July 26. They will be used in part by the Middle East Technical University for oceanographic studies.

The 49th annual Izmir International Trade Fair opened August 20 and will go until Sept. 20. Countries represented are Jordan and Qatar (for the first time), the USA and Albania (for the first time after many years' absence), and Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, West Germany, Gabon, India, Iraq, England, Spain, Israel, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Canada, Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, Libya, Hungary, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Singapore, Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia.



At the same time as the Fair, the Kenter Theater will be performing the play, A Basement Window, in the open air theater of the American Collegiate Institute in Göztepe. Yıldız Kenter was the commencement speaker at the Izmir school this spring.

Prime Minister Demirel has announced several times that there are no shortages of any supplies in the country except for cigarettes. Koç Holding recommends that a Virginia-type tobacco be grown here to increase production. Coals to Newcastle. There has been a noticeable increase in the export of marble from Turkey. According to Fortune Magazine two Turkish firms are among the 500 largest non-American international companies. In 1979 Sabancı had sales of \$2.6 billion and was in 142nd place; Koç sales were \$1.6 billion and was 252nd. THY enjoyed a 54-million lira profit in 1979 and an \$89-million foreign exchange credit, in spite of the long strike this spring which stopped all its flights.

A 2.5% decrease in the value of the Turkish lira in relation to the dollar was announced on August 5th. Since 1975 when it was worth 13.85 the lira has been devalued 17 times. At present \$1.00 is worth 80.00 TL. There does appear to be a lessening of the speed with which prices are going up, however, according to the Minister of Finance, Turgut Özal. The rate of inflation in March was 3.1% over the month before; in April it was 2.1%, and in June 2.5%.

Martial law was extended August 18 for another two months in 20 provinces in Turkey. According to Milliyet newspaper, 1,259 people had been killed this year in terrorist activities in the country up to August 1st.

The Ministry of Justice has asked the Ministry of the Interior to ask Interpol's help in returning Billy Hayes to finish out his jail term in Turkey. Mr. Hayes is the author of Midnight Express.

Beşiktaş and Tarabiya phones beginning with the numbers 60, 61 and 62 have been tied to international lines. This means that their owners may dial 99-1-and then any US number directly and talk just any old time they wish.

The large building on Taksim Square in Istanbul that has been vacant all year opened July 17 as the Marmara Etap Hotel after 390 days of strike against the Intercontinental Hotel. It is accepting reservations as of Sept. 1st. Strikers are reported



to have received 150,000 TL each as compensation.

The General Directorate of Public Highways reports that the preliminary plans for a second bridge across the Bosphorus are complete. The bridge will span the strait from Rumelihisar-Baltalimanı to Kanlıca. Residents of Greylock and the Red House are beginning to feel encircled.

The Rumanian tanker, Indepentza, which was hit and exploded in the Istanbul harbor last November 15 began smoking again August 26th. Firemen spent some time pouring water on it and cordoning off the area to prevent another explosion or injury from it. The next day it was announced that salvage operations on it would start soon and it would be removed completely within six months.

The New York City mayor has declared 19 May 1981 as Ataturk Day for that city. Appropriate celebrations will be held there then.

The early departure of storks from Turkey is explained as a function of the readiness of the young birds to fly and their need to find enough food rather than the approach of a long, cold winter. Residents of Rumelihisar were entertained by a flock of migrating birds which chose the fortress and nearby high points to roost one night recently. Perhaps they wanted one more day of summer vacation in Europe before returning to work.

Wouldn't we all?

Anna G. Edmonds, editor



No. 693

Near East Mission  
United Church Board for  
World Ministries  
Posta Kutusu 142  
Istanbul, Turkey  
29 August 1980

Dear Friends:

Fifty-six members, friends and children of the Near East Mission gathered for the business meeting in the Meyer-Edmonds home in Rumelihisar July 4 to 6. School schedules have forced the meeting into shorter and shorter times; and rising costs have made hotel accommodations too expensive for a large group, so housing for most people was in Mission homes and meals were prepared and served in the Avery home. The first day's meetings were held in the garden, but a rain the morning of the 5th brought people into the Meyers' living room for an exercise in togetherness. Judith Welles gave the keynote address on "Which Road." The Mission Church service this year was held jointly with the Union Church of Istanbul in the Dutch Chapel on Sunday morning. At it Sylvia Meyer paid tribute to the Mission members who had died since the previous meeting. On Sunday afternoon a reception was held at the Üsküdar school honoring Dr. Dale L. Bishop, the Middle East Secretary of the UCBM who was here on his first official visit to the Mission.

Those who have left Turkey since the last issue of "Dear Friends" include Melvin and Nancy Wittler (in the US on an extended furlough), Frances Eddy and Gwen Scott (for retirement), Greg Seeber (for a summer leave), Betty Avery (for a year's furlough), and George Jevremovic, Margaret and Martha Mason, Kathleen Tansey, James, Carol, Paul and Ann Doal, Clara Lampton, Nancy Downing, Helen Bush, Faith Jones, Keith Durnley, Helen Chalmers, and David and Susan Hall for other work. We wish them well in their new homes and hope we'll be seeing them again.

New people have come and now are busy studying Turkish at the Turkish-American University Association in Istanbul. Four are to be teachers in Izmir: Sally Carson, Alison Stendahl, David and Linda Buckle; Martha Butkofsky will be an administrative



assistant in the Mission office; and Richard, Cerina and Raymond Blakney are the new family with Redhouse Press.

Five others from Izmir are also attending the language school: Sally Henderson, Sue Hosmer, Forrest and Blanche Morris, and Florence Lerrigo. There have also been group discussions with lively questions and answers on Islam, the Near East Mission, education, social customs, the place of women, the economy, current problems and future prospects, all related to Turkey.

In each school a two-day seminar attended by administrators has been prepared by the School Board of Governors Planning Committee. The leader is Dr. Sera Özbaşı, a 1963 Talas and 1966 Tarsus graduate who is now research assistant in the business administration faculty of Istanbul Technical University. In response to questionnaires sent in the early stages of planning, the seminars have been designed to deal with methods of communication, time management, conflict and stress, motivation and job satisfaction, and group dynamics in problem solving. Emphasis will be on active participation with several sessions initiated by some on-the-spot written exercises.

During Greg Seeber's home leave this summer, members of the Dutch Chapel congregation have been conducting the service there on Sundays. These have included a number of Mission members.

Visitors to Istanbul have included Jean and Jerry Scheideman (Üsküdar 1962-1967), Mimi Huber, Üsküdar 1963-66) and Tom Alexander, Bruce (Tarsus 1975-78, Izmir 1978-79) and Güzide Remington, Paul Stirling, Roderic and John Davison, Elizabeth, Ann and Deborah Mason, Dick Avery, and Carol and Derek Pogirsky (Talas 1960-64, Izmir 1964-65).

Three members of the Mission who among them had served 103 years in Turkey died within a short period of each other: Harriet Yarrow, Dora Dewey and Jessie Martin. Harriet Yarrow died in Boston, Massachusetts on May 16th at the age of 77. Harriet first came to Turkey as a graduate of Wellesley College in 1927; she began teaching both boys and girls in the Gedik Paşa Gargur school. Subsequently she taught both in Tarsus and in Izmir, retiring in 1963. Upon her return to the United States she became very active in causes supporting world peace. Dora Shank



Dewey, wife of Dr. Albert Dewey, died in Claremont, California on June 2nd. She had come as a nurse for the Adana hospital in 1929, then worked at the Admiral Bristol Hospital from 1936 to 1941. In 1942 she married Dr. Dewey and helped him and the Gaziantep hospital until their retirement in August 1958. Jessie Martin was born in Tarsus of Mission parents and spent most of her adult life, from 1920 on, in Turkey, teaching in the girls' school in Adana, the boys' school in Tarsus, the girls' school in Merzifon, and at last becoming principal of the American Academy for Girls in Üsküdar. She retired in 1957 to begin another busy life in California; her death came on ~~1957~~ June 30th.

There are address changes for several friends: Hal and Ann Schoup (Aleppo 1960-65, Izmir 1965-66, Istanbul 1967-73) have moved to 9842 South Millard Ave., Evergreen Park, IL 60642. Ann is now a chaplain at Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, and Hal is the administrator of Peace Memorial Home. Robin MacCallum, has packed up her apartment in Shoreham, Sussex and moved to be with her daughter, Elizabeth Lees at 33 Holywell Drive, Loughborough Leicestershire, LE11 3JU. The MacCallums were for a number of years the gracious, sparkling hosts of the Bible House while Lyman (Robin's husband) was the British and Foreign Bible Society representative here. Margaret Steward (Pierce College 1955-70) has returned to the United States to live at 2210 South Santa Anita, Arcadia, CA 91006.

Lands of the Unexpected by Ezra Young has recently been published by the Sunstone Press. This is a book of memoirs of Rev. Young's life in Turkey. He was with the Mission in Adana from 1930 to 1933 and director of the YMCA in Istanbul from 1942 to 1953.

Marion Brandon (Talas 1963-68) underwent open heart surgery on May 28 but writes on July 3 that she is "thankfully, beginning to get caught up on things again." Geçmiş olsun.

Two Redhouse Press books have appeared since the last announcement. İle Ekersen Onu Biçersin (You Reap What You Sow) by Zafer Sülkan and Tomur Smith, is a book for parents and teachers to help children with verbal and mathematical conceptual development. Bursa Rehberi by Betsy Harrell and translated by Suna



Asimgil is the first Turkish language guidebook to be published by Redhouse.

Handbook of Turkish Law for Foreigners by Engin Ural is available at the Redhouse bookstore for 400 TL. Mr. Ural is a member of the Development Foundation of Turkey and a founder of the Environmental Problems Foundation of Turkey. He is a practicing lawyer.

In our last issue we reported the murder of Bahram Dahqani-Tafti in Tehran in early May. On May 1st Miss Jean Waddell, secretary to his father, Bishop Hassan Dahqani-Tafti was shot and seriously hurt by two gunmen in Tehran. She was in that city trying to get an exit visa to return to Scotland for her first home leave. Since then she has been accused of political activity and spying by the Iranian government and arrested on August 11. At the same time all remaining United Presbyterian Church missionary personnel were advised to leave Iran. On August 10 there was a report from the vicar general of the Catholic dioceses in Tehran that all 150 Roman Catholic priests and nuns would also leave within the month.

From the Ecumenical Press Service we learn that when the new archbishop of Canterbury was enthroned, the word "filioque" was omitted from the creed (see "Dear Friends" No. 686, p. 6). This was done for the purpose of making full participation in the service easier for Greek Orthodox church representatives who were present. The action was hailed by Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon as an historical initiative for Christian unity. "The Eastern Churches salute this gesture as a manifestation of the new Archbishop's will for a reunion of Eastern and Western Christianity on the common ground of the one and indivisible church," he said.

Anna G. Edmonds, editor