

No. 725

Near East Mission
United Church Board
for World Ministries
P.K. 142, Istanbul, Turkey
March 12, 1984

Dear Friends,

"When Winter comes, can Spring be far behind" - but what happens when Winter never comes? We wonder, as we uneasily enjoy bright Spring flowers and blossoming fruit trees while the calendar shows we are approaching the official end of a winter that hasn't yet made itself felt.

One hopes that the early Spring blossoms might be a good omen for continuing progress in the development of the new civilian government that was voted into office in the elections last November. Turkut Özal's government seems to have won cautious approval from leaders of other countries, and he himself was named "Economist of the Year" by European Management Forum. A further step has been taken with permission granted for the founding of several more political parties : and candidates from these parties are running in the campaigns for the local elections which are to be held later this month.

A Talas graduate, Korel Göymen is a member of the new Social Democrat party, and is running for the position of mayor of Istanbul. His candidacy gained some loyal supporters at the gala "Alma Mater" Evening at the Istanbul Sheraton on March 1; over 300 people connected with the Board Schools - graduates, wives, and past and present teachers - came together for a most successful reunion dinner - which many people hope is the beginning of a tradition. Tom Goodrich's presence in Istanbul has sparked a number of Talas Reunion get-togethers, two at his home and one at the Üsküdar School, so being already used to getting together, Talas boys formed a strong contingent at the "Alma Mater" Dinner for Korel to contact.

A number of greetings from friends in the States were read to the group, and it was a very poignant moment when Melvin Wittler read some paragraphs from Naomi Foster (Izmir, 1944-1973) that were a moving farewell, conveying strong faith as well as her knowledge that she was losing her struggle with cancer.

Some news comes to us much delayed and in unexpected ways. It was only this January that we received from Elizabeth Seeger a newspaper clipping reporting that Janet Bergmark (Istanbul, 1950 to 1955) died November 6, 1982 in a car accident. Her husband David Bergmark was also briefly hospitalized. Janet was a person of many accomplishments, and an outstanding musician, and as a Mission member, perhaps her most remarkable achievement was to become one of the few to pass the second year language exam - the only one to start learning Turkish from the beginning and successfully work up to that second year exam within the first five years! We send our warm (albeit late) sympathy to David and the "children", who are now all married, with children of their own.

The Blake's Christmas letter furnished us with another unexpected and belated piece of information. The letter reports that in June Jack Blake was in Columbus, Ohio to baptize the ten-month old son of Meral and Howard Crane (Tarsus, 1962-1965), but gave no particulars as to name and other vital statistics. We almost had a chance to find out from Howard more about the baby and the rest of the family, as he stopped in Istanbul at the end of January on his way to India but was not able to find anyone at home whom he tried to contact.

The same Christmas letter also reported a pleasant lunch that the Blakes had with the Barrys (Don and Roxy, Tarsus, 1973-76) at which they saw little Keziban - a new little sister for Ivan and Heather, whose September arrival somehow missed mention in Dear Friends earlier....

And while we are on the subject of babies : Luke O'Dea and Irene Frank (mentioned in Dear Friends, November 18) are no longer the youngest members of the Board schools families. Lydia Deniz Bartholomew arrived early enough in December that she and her mother Mary could have Christmas at home with her father Alan and her two "ağabey" Robert and Daniel. (On furlough from work in Tarsus since 1977.)

The very most recent tiny arrival is Erol Jon Kalafat, who arrived in February, some days early, surprising his mother, Suzanne Rawlings Kalafat and father, Vural,

and the Üsküdar faculty on the very day after Suzanne's fellow-teachers had given her a surprise baby-shower at school.

To go back, after this digression on babies : It was not surprising that Howard Crane found no one in Istanbul at the time of his quick stop-over there, for it was just at the beginning of the schools' winter vacation, and most people were either off on vacation trips or attending the Spritual Life Retreat at Pamukkale, which was attended by 36 people - mostly from Istanbul, Izmir and Tarsus, but also Dale Bishop from Cyprus, the O'Deas from Israel, and the Battens from the States - and took place on the last weekend in January. The theme focused on "Reconciliation", and Dale Bishop, as resource person, presented the concerns and led discussions on the Lebanon and Palestinian situations. Baby Andrew's illness kept the rest of the family at home in Cyprus, and Dale had to make this visit to Turkey alone, but we hope to see the whole family here some day!

Many people spent some time travelling during the vacation, and most came back to work without mishap. Fay Linder was less fortunate - she came home with her arm in a cast, having slipped on the ice while at home in the States and broken her arm. Betsy Anderson "took it on the chin" in a motorcycle accident in Cyprus and had to have her chin stitched up, but otherwise returned in good condition.

Margery and Robert Johnson are also safely back teaching at Üsküdar, after a somewhat longer "vacation" spent back home in Iowa, where Margery went through rounds of tests and treatment to get her over a very stubborn intestinal disturbance. The treatments and, no doubt, the rest away from school problems, worked wonders, and Margery looks as fit as ever.

"Geçmiş olsun" to Louise Fricke who has been in the hospital several times since she left Izmir this summer. Though Jack Blake was also in the hospital in January, for surgery, the "Geçmiş olsun" is perhaps superfluous, for we hear that in February he was able to preach in the church where Oliver Black (Pastor of the Dutch Chapel, Istanbul, 1973-76) is now pastor!

Wally Robeson flew February 12 to the States to be with his mother, as she had rather complicated surgery to open up blood vessels after a slight stroke. She came through the operation well, and recuperation was quick, so that by late February Wally could go back to Tarsus feeling satisfied about her condition.

Ruth Chignell of Izmir, who was reported in the last Dear Friends as having gone home to Australia to look after her sick mother, is also again back to school. There is now a fellow-Australian on the Izmir faculty, Ms. Amber Sutherland-Maugham, who has both nursing and secretarial training, and has been in Turkey before, working for the Development Foundation of Turkey. She has recently earned a degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, and arrived in Izmir to begin teaching for the second semester; this is her first teaching position.

One last medical note : The Mission hospital in Gaziantep has recently set up an intensive care unit as an expansion of its services to the Gaziantep community. It is quite fitting that among the first to occupy it was a long-time friend of the hospital, Dr. Emin Kale, spiritual mentor of the "Jesusist" group. He did not need to use it long, and is now at home.

Lilie Sargent, a Board Associate working for the DFT, is at present back in the States on a three-month furlough - a furlough, but not exactly a vacation, for she is acting as translator for two Turkish bee-specialists who are in Texas studying the production of queen bees and hoping to come back with useful information and methods to help in developing the DFT's bee-raising projects. Lilie herself, after translating all this, will undoubtedly come back well-versed in bee-lore.

It seems there have been more than the usual number of visitors these past few months : In November, Dr. David Stowe, executive vice-president of the Board, with his wife, Virginia, made a twelve-day tour, with visits to Ankara, and to the DFT work in Diyarbakir, as well as to each of the three schools.

Elnora and Ernest Nebola (Tarsus, 1981-83) had a happy return to Turkey at the end of their round-the-world tour, glad to be able to see more of Turkey without the pressures of school. But Ernest, being Ernest, encountering a maintenance problem in "Çalidere" where they were staying with Betty Avery, couldn't keep from stepping in to set in fight!

Pat Scott (Admiral Bristol Hospital, in the 1970's) has been studying for a Doctor's degree in nursing in the States, and finally came to the stage in thesis preparation where she had to do field research; after three months shuttling between Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, she is now back in the States, and we hope to hear soon that she has become Doctor Pat Scott (A Doctor of Nursing?!))

Susan Walcott came just after Christmas for a week's visit with her mother Elnora. The week was filled with visits to and from friends she had made while teaching in Üsküdar in the early 1960's.

Betty Stockover made a long-week-end hop from Gramstein, Germany, where she is with the USO, working particularly with servicemen's wives and families. Betty was teacher at Üsküdar in the early 70's, and before that had taught at the well-known "Dar-ül-Şafaka", and though the visit had not been announced ahead of time, she was able to have happy reunions with old friends from both schools.

Bill Tucker (whose parents were in Talas and Tarsus) appeared in Istanbul unexpectedly after twenty years away, taking a break in his round-the-world adventure to see the country that had been his home when a child. So far, his travels have been mostly in the East (his two favorite places : China and Nepal!) but after working for a while, he hopes to go on to Europe and visit his sister, Amy, in Czekoslovakia.

One might say that Walter and Ruth Olsen's visit was a vicarious return for Dorothy Ross. Ruth is Frank Ross's daughter - and became Dorothy Blatter's "stepdaughter" when Dorothy and Frank were married - so the Olsens were anxious to visit the land that had been her second home.

Frank Stone (Tarsus, Ankara, 1953-71) paid a fleeting visit to Istanbul last summer, on his way to a conference at Hacettepe University in Ankara. He appears to have met none of the Mission family and so escaped mention in any previous number of Dear Friends. Frank is still at the University of Connecticut, where he has the title of Professor of International Education, but gives a great deal of time and interest to his responsibilities as director of the I.N. Thut World Education Center which offers "Activities in bilingual, multicultural, international and global education". Kolay Gelsin, Frank - it seems that you have your hands more than full! He reports that Barbara is active in the Peace and Nuclear Disarmament movement, and the four children are in various levels of highschool and college, with David about to be graduated from University of Connecticut in May as a political science major. He also mentions that they see Ruth Jones, who, having retired from Izmir, is still going on teaching English as a second language in the States!

Carol Geren expected to return to Üsküdar for a visit during her semester vacation, but the day she was to have flown, the Beirut Airport was closed and flights cancelled. In the renewal of hostilities, which never seem to get better, Carol seems to be still keeping going - "Allah Korusun!"

Marion Billington, teaching at Tarsus, had a brief visit from his mother. It was fortunate that her vacation from her teaching position in Saudia Arabia coincided with school vacations here in Turkey, so that the Billingtons were able to attend the retreat together.

Another visitor on the Tarsus campus was Jim Inscoe, Julia Inscoe's brother, who is with the U.S. Air Force and stationed in Athens; he managed to get a long weekend and transportation, and was finding Turkey a completely new experience.

Jack and Margaret Batten are taking a sabbatical from the S. Dakota UCC Conference (he is Conference Minister) and will be spending six months with the Mission, getting acquainted with the people and the Mission, and looking

for ways that they can be of help. The Retreat provided an excellent introduction, and they then had a brief time of travel before coming to Istanbul. In March they will be visiting Tarsus and Izmir and come back to Istanbul. We welcome the Battens and hope we'll be getting to know them much better!

Jim and Kathy O'Dea after having been at the Spiritual Life Retreat from Israel, have since moved to Istanbul, where they hope to carry on some of what they hoped to be doing in Israel. The move was because of necessary permits. The O'Deas have worked in Turkey before and should not find it difficult to make the adjustment.

The Christmas mail brought us happy greetings from newly married Martha (Butkofsky) Boyer, who served briefly in the Mission Office (1980-81) until health made necessary her return to the States. She has had a pastorate in Warren, Ohio, since the summer of 1982. Thank you for your good news, Martha! We wish you and David happiness together for many years to come.

Sylvia Meyer

Near East Mission
United Church Board for World
Ministries

Posta Kutusu 142
Istanbul, Turkey
June 15, 1984

No. 726

Dear Friends,

The following is an address given at the Üsküdar Commencement on June 3, 1984 by Dr. Virginia Canfield who is enjoying a visit to Turkey. She was Academic Dean and chair of the English department from 1964 until her retirement in 1979.

Commencement - Üsküdar School - June 3, 1984

One of the very pleasant things about growing old is the frequency with which one falls into conversations with the young. To sit down alone on a park bench, in the waiting room of a bus or train station, in the check-in lounge at an airport is almost invariably to become involved in a long talk with someone in the late teens or early twenties - usually male. They are full of themselves, eager to talk about what interests them, and they feel safe with someone who might be their grandmother. It is a curious fact, too, noted by many psychologists, that almost everybody talks more freely and frankly to a stranger whom they will never see again than they do to their own friends and families.

Sometimes I groan when I see another young man approaching me, because I have my own thoughts to think, but most of the time I am glad of these conversations. I no longer teach, and my nieces and nephew are now in their thirties, so these casual encounters are my main way of keeping in touch with the younger generation. They provide me with all sorts of information and insights which I could get in no other way.

Thus, not so long ago in a college town in upstate New York, when I had more than an hour to wait for my bus, I was not surprised when a young man dropped his backpack at the end of the bench and assorted bundles on the floor beside it. He looked as all American College students look,

male or female - jeans, tee shirt, jacket, and something called, I think, desert boots. Anyway, a kind of suede shoe, grey or tan, that comes up over the ankle. We had time for a long talk, for his bus was later than mine. During much of the conversation I was made depressingly aware of how much your school in Üsküdar has not been able to give you, but when it ended I was convinced that your education has been superior to that of many young Americans.

First - what you have not had. This young man was interested in television, not as actor, producer, writer, news commentator or anything so dull as that, but in what makes it all possible - cameras, projection, and sound. I listened in complete astonishment while he told me about the complicated equipment he was accustomed to using in his school and college classrooms : the various kinds of cameras, lenses, monitors, playbacks, film editing, tapes, other sound recording, and so on. Furthermore, since his school had a closed circuit television system, he had opportunities for actual and repeated experiences in doing shows, and now and again he got some experience on a local broadcast channel.

I thought also of recent articles about primary schools that have installed banks of computers, so that through computer games and self teaching exercises even very young children can become accustomed to the machines. About classrooms I know of where the teacher can push a few buttons and add to the lesson slides from two projectors, films, stereo sound. About the unbelievable science equipment my niece has to use in her biology and chemistry classes, all sorts of demonstration equipment as well as slides and films, various kinds of microscopes, workbenches, and so on. Very little of this is in the poor inner-city schools, may I say, but in the richersuburban and private schools. But after all, in the Turkish setting, Üsküdar is also a private school with a selected student body, equivalent to the one where my niece teaches.

I was impressed by the young man so long as we talked about technical subjects. He obviously knew a great deal and was at ease with the information. However, since he was very polite, he felt he should ask me something about myself.

Where was I going?

Baltimore.

"Baltimore? What's it like out there?" Out there? Did he think it was in Wyoming or Alaska or somewhere?

"It isn't out there." I said. "It is just several hundred miles down the road, next to Washington D.C."

When I said I had taught in Turkey, he said nothing but obviously had no idea whether Turkey was in South Africa, South America, Iceland, or Antarctica.

I remembered that the newspaper had a little sketch map of the Middle East, as it often does when there are news items from there, so I got that out. He now knows that Turkey is north of Lebanon and Syria, west of Iran.

It was not just geography he didn't know. It had never occurred to him that every one in every part of the world did not have the same standard of living as his, the same opportunities, the same desires. Since he lives in an almost time less present, where the only changes are technological changes, history, of course does not exist, nor does literature. My bus came in before his did, and as I left him I suggest that he ought to look at maps and read some books for, after all, when he is a full fledged television man and is sent out on assignment, he will have to find out where he is supposed to go. He thought that was a very good idea.

It would be completely unfair to offer this young man as a typical product of American education. He is not. But he does rather nicely point up a present day educational problem, a tendency to emphasize technological training in place of a basic general education, especially in those countries that can afford the enormous expense of equipping schools and classrooms with the latest gadgets and where changing industrial practice has greatly reduced the number of jobs open even to skilled labor.

Actually, technical know-how (at the user's not the inventor's level) is rather quickly and easily acquired, especially by those who have a good basic education in math and science. Very often we see training courses that

run for only a few weeks or months. As evidence, the speed with which industrial technicians can be switched from one process to another. There have been big problems as factories have been automated (or robotized) but not technological problems - rather they are economic and social in the displacement of workers. There is evidence, too, in the speed with which offices and communications have been computerized, many developing their own software. Or the wide sale and use of personal computers, often without any instruction at all except that which comes in the manual or handbook for the set. Think of all those bright teen agers who were tapping the secrets in government agencies and national banks, supposedly under tight security. I think the one who was able to read the secrets in the Social Security Office was only 14 years old.

Basic science has its own motive-power, the expansion of human knowledge, and the directions it takes comes from within itself. It uses technology, obviously, to enlarge its scope, from space to microbiology. However, technology as publically seen and used has no inner reason. Decisions about its use come from outside and, unfortunately, are too often either to make lots of money or to make war or both. I don't want to play down how important it is that, through science and technology, we have the means to enrich life. But we need to worry about what decisions are made about its use. Shall we put nuclear missiles all over the world to destroy ourselves, or shall we use our potential power to feed a probable million people now starving in Africa, to hold back the sands of the Sahara, to clean up our air and water?

How can we learn to make such decisions, to use wisely and to the full our individual abilities and those of the world? There is another kind of education, one that my young friend with the television cameras has not had. It is a slow process and life long. It is that kind of education that Üsküdar has tried to start for you - but only start, mind you, for you have to continue it on into university and professional schools and into your lives. You know what it is, for your curriculum expresses

it and your teachers and administrators have talked to you about it : the basic skills of language and mathematics, understanding of scientific method and some of the findings of science, some insight into how men have thought and felt through literature, the arts, the social sciences, awareness of ethical and aesthetic choices and values given by all your courses, practical experience in health, nutrition, exercise, and recreation, the great resources available in libraries. This is what we mean by a general or liberal education.

I want to stress, however, something further that Üsküdar has given you, and that really does make your education superior to that of most young Americans. You are all bi-lingual and some of you are competent in still a third language. To be bi-lingual means far for more than an ability to speak and understand, read and write two languages. Mastery of a language means to enter into a culture, for a language contains, preserves, and transmits the whole history of a people - its beliefs and expectations, its understanding of good and evil, its sense of time and place, its superstitions and prejudices, its relationships within the family, between private citizen and government, its attitudes to children, women, and the old, how it sees the natural world, what it regards as beautiful, comic, tragic. You may not know consciously that you have all this, but as you use either of your two languages you will be demonstrating that you do.

We need some examples. Japanese has within it a special language used only by or about women and children. What does that tell you about the traditional role of Japanese women, excluded socially and fully subordinated in a male culture? (Now, of course, changing) so there are words that immediately reveal strong class differences, taboo words that must never be spoken or written, hate words that label races or minorities, habitual phrases used everyday that indicate a desire for courteous and friendly relations - or that are missing in a language entirely. Some languages, like Basque, are so highly localized that there may be a word for a specific tree in a particular place but no word that can be used for any tree anywhere . Wouldn't this make abstract thought difficult? Are continuous titles used or does one move immediately to first names? There is a big difference

in tone between Miss, Frau, Madame, Senora, Hanım Effendi, and "Hi, there, Ayşe, old girl."

So, all right, you have two languages and can move easily within two different cultures, perhaps in three. What difference does this make? We are all aware of the enormous technological changes in the world you will be living in, but there are some other changes which have impressed many writers as perhaps more important. We might think of them under the general title of the internationalization of the world - made possible by technological developments in transportation and communications, but desperately needing understanding and direction as economic and social problems. I am aware that there is presently an emphasis on nationalism, as well. This has some virtues. We need to know who we are, to have roots in a national culture, to be willing to undertake the services and economies that will help our nation to develop - which is usually for the greater good of everyone. This is why governments are obliged to emphasize the importance of the nation. Carried to extremes, of course, nationalism can be destructive - as Nazi Germany.

The diffusion of cultures you are aware of. I generally watch in America only British Broadcasting television programs, and a guide in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, told us he had seen the BBC series, Galsworthy's Forsyte Saga, on Soviet TV. I think you sometimes see American TV programs here. Popular music goes rather quickly from nation to nation. We eat each other's foods. I had never heard of yogurt when I first came to Turkey in 1961, and now it is for sale in every American super market. A group of Chinese dancers are presently touring in the United States. Scientists are constantly having international meetings and scientific journals are exchanged world-wide. Sports are international. Even when there is no Olympics, athletes from all nations compete in regional and world events. Popular or important books are usually available in translation within a year or two. In one sense, this helps the culturally limited person, but generally need for real understanding of cultural differences, as mind open and curious about the diversity of opinions and attitudes and customs is essential. There is misunderstanding - something intended in one way in our country is understood in an opposite way in another country. There is also likely to be exchanges of the lowest level. There are no cowboys in America,

and I do not like to related only to Cocacola and designer Jeans. There are higher values than that in American culture.

In the worlds of the big corporations and high finance, little discussed except on the business pages of newspapers and magazines usually not in the regular news pages, internationalization has reached a high and perhaps rather disturbing point. This is the age of the supranational corporation, above the reach of any particular government. Who owns the Shell Oil Company? Once upon a time you could have said the Dutch : now you must say, well, some Dutch, some Americans, British, Germans, probably Saudia. General Motors workers complain about imported Japanese cars because they have lost their jobs, but General Motors Corp and Toyota are building a factory together. A bank in the Vatican, in Rome, goes bankrupt, and that makes a bank in the United States - I think South Dakota- become bankrupt also. The Hilton Hotel in downtown Baltimore operates under a franchise from the Hilton Hotel chain, but is owned by Saudi Arabians. Brasil has a national debt, and the matter has to be arranged by the Chase Manhattan and other independent banks in America, the Bank of England, assorted banks in Canada and Europe. A Maryland spice company, McCormick, was barely able to prevent a take-over by a Swiss company. Is that enough illustration of the point?

I said this was perhaps a disturbing development. I meant - if no nation has control, where does responsibility rest?

Strangest of all, and most exciting, is the great movement of peoples going on all over the world. In pre-history, the Indo-Europeans or Aryans came down from Central Europe into Greece, Iran, Afghanistan, and India. In the 4th C. AD the Huns swept from Central Asia into Europe. There was the Arab movement up into the Middle East and North Africa. Again, a great movement out of Central Asia - Seljuk and Ottoman Turks to the Middle East, the Moghuls to India. Several times the Mongols came out of and retreated back into Asia. What is going on now seems on a scale with these great movements. By comparison, the European colonization of North and South America and Australia, and the 19th century immigration from Europe to the United States are very small.

There are many causes today. Millions are political and war refugees. Many are in search of better economic opportunities.

Natural catastrophes are driving others out, as in the Sahel where five years of drought and the encroaching sands of the Sahara have left them with no arable land and no pastures for their animals. Over-population and exhaustion of land resources affect others, Afghans are in Pakistan, Cambodians in Thailand, Palestinians scattered every where. Koreans are in Saudi Arabia and the United States. Turks are in Germany and Australia. West Indians and Pakistanis are in Britain. Haitians, Arbans, Mexicans, and Vietnamese are in the United States. The problems are complicated, too, by the fact that where there once was room and economic opportunity, this is no longer true.

Well, this is your world. There are serious problems and great dangers, but also great promises. There are scholars who believe that almost every major leap forward in human civilization has paralleled these shifts in population, when different cultures meet each other, and each learns from the other. Once upon a time learning and inventions moved from China and the Middle East into Europe - mathematics, astronomy, silk, gunpowder, printing. Then for a time about 200 years the major influences went the other way, from the western world to the South and East. Who knows from whence will come the next important developments? It is an exciting prospect.

All education is meant to prepare students for the future, but the problem is that nobody knows exactly what the future will be - precisely because it is the future and has not yet arrived. Generally it seems best to offer a flexible program, one that, while offering practical training, stresses a range of knowledge, moral choice, aesthetic considerations, and so on - a liberal education. And if these trends I have discussed as internationalization are, in fact, significant, then what would be the best preparation for this? We are back where we began - probably through the mastery of languages and thus cultural understanding.

I am not worried about you : you are quite well prepared for the real world, whatever it may turn out to be. I am worried about that young man with the television cameras. He is going to make some terrible mistakes.

Virginia Canfield

Near East Mission
United Church Board for World
Ministries

Posta Kutusu 142
Istanbul, Turkey
May 30, 1984

No. 727

Dear Friends,

Although, for some reason, St. Paul found the Galatians' penchant for "observing certain days, months, seasons, or years" a cause for serious concern (Gal. 4; 10), he was unable to change human nature; it is an incurable habit among us humans to celebrate happy events and returning anniversaries, or to commemorate sorrowful or deeply moving ones.

Even as Naomi Foster's words of farewell were read to the guests at the "Alma Mater" dinner (Dear Friends, March 12), Naomi was already entering the coma which preceded her death on March 8th. She had had the time and courage to ponder and come to an understanding of the meaning of her life and death, and found it expressed in certain words which she asked to have included in her memorial service (which took place in due time on March 25th): the hymns "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" and "For the Beauty of the Earth"; the Lord's Prayer, in Turkish; and some lines from Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem, "Renascence" (excerpted below by the editor):

"... Above the world is stretched the sky
No higher than the soul is high.....
The soul can split the sky in two
And let the face of God shine through...
(But) 'he whose soul is flat - the sky
Will cave in on him by and by."

We know that for many people, Naomi was able to "let the face of God shine through".

Ernest Nebola had no such time of preparation. He and his wife Elnora were hardly back in the States after

their two years in Turkey and the thoroughly satisfying round-the-world trip ending in a happy revisit of Turkey, when he succumbed to a sudden heart attack and died - a parting for which Elnora was ill-prepared. We extend to her our deepest sympathy and hope that she will soon be able to start rebuilding her life to a new plan.

Altan Ünver returned to Ankara immediately after the Dinner for a happy occasion - the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Development Foundation of Turkey. Starting from a modest prototype : a mini-chicken project and a hostel for village boys who wanted to get a secondary education, the Foundation has grown in scope - projects now include husbandry of cattle and bees as well as chickens; handcrafts such as rug-weaving, and financing (making small loans to farmers needing capital to improve their small farm holdings). It has grown in area covered - there are many projects scattered but largely in the Eastern provinces of Turkey. And it has grown in numbers - three hundred members of the DFT family came together from the various project sites to be present at the celebration, and to offer congratulations to a number of their colleagues who received awards for ten years of service to the Foundation. And then they all danced.

Apropos of the DFT - Lilie Sargent returned on May 11 from her "home assignment" (spent in Texas translating bee lore for DFT's bee experts) accompanied by the said bee experts and 52 Queen Bees, (each accompanied in turn by her retinue of worker bees). The way was fortuitously paved for their arrival just the day before, by the passage of an Act of Parliament permitting the import of Queen Bees into Turkey.

To return to celebrations : Istanbul Erkek Lisesi (now known simply as "Istanbul Lisesi") took a whole week to celebrate its hundredth anniversary, beginning with an opening ceremony on Saturday, May 11, in the Park of the German summer Embassy residence in Tarabya. During the course of the week it had the honor of a visit from President Kenan Evren.

Less illustriously attended, perhaps, but no less heartily celebrated, was the 60th anniversary of the Girls' Service Center (YWCA) at Cihangir. Nancy Wittler, Cerina Blakney and Hulya Sowerwine were the Mission members who attended the conference that was part of the celebration.

In the absence of Choir Director William Edmonds, Nancy Wittler prepared and conducted the Dutch Chapel Cantata Choir's traditional Christmas and Easter concerts. The Christmas concert included Christmas Carols from many nations, rather than a single longer choral work. Besides the three originally planned performances, the choir repeated the concert after Christmas, singing at the Sadberk Hanim Museum, at the invitation of the museum directors.

For the Easter concert, the choir sang Cherubini's Requiem Mass in the church of St. Antoine, with the accompanist also playing two solo numbers of the fine organ. A moving assessment of the concert was given by a blind graduate student of Bosphorus University, whose first attendance at such a concert was also his first time in a church : the organ, he said, was "divine" and as for the concert as a whole, "I felt that I was participating in a prayer ceremony". A new and unique feature of recent concerts has been the playing of the Bell Choir (very striking.) The clear ethereal bell tones are a new sound to most listeners, and never fail to produce rapt delight.

Conductor Nancy Wittler was also recently a performer, singing Turkish "lieder" to the piano accompaniment of Mrs. Nazife Güran, who was also composer of the words and music that Nancy sang. Nazife Hanim also played music which she had composed for solo piano. There were two concerts, the first on April 25, sponsored by the Rotary Club to benefit the Turkish Mother's Association, and again on May 9th as a cultural event sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Center.

Among the numerous visitors to Turkey during the past three months were :

- Roger Matteson, who, as a tutor in Tarsus during the mid-twenties, gave so completely of himself to the people and worked so hard at the language that for years after he carried on a correspondence in Osmanli Türkçe with Enis Hoca, a religious leader of Tarsus. The trip was a kind of pilgrimage to recreate the memories of those days for his fellow-pilgrim, his daughter Helen Schotanus. They had a soul-satisfying two weeks March 15-28, travelling by bus to Tarsus, Göreme and Ankara; and among the people whom they met were Esat and Haluk Alpaytac, sons of Roger's former correspondent, Enis Hoca.
- Rev. Daehler Hayes of Rhode Island, whose visit, from May 21-29 was only a taste which we hope will entice him to come again for more.
- Alfred Jones, from the Stewardship Council (and college classmate of the YMCA's Farley Maxwell), who came on May 9th determined - and equipped - to visit and try to understand the work of the Turkey mission and the schools. He spent time at each place, taking innumerable pictures, meeting with nearly as many people until finally, having been joined by his wife, he took off for Antalya for a rest, and to try to assimilate all that he had experienced.
- Dale Bishop, who arrived with Paul Hopkins his Presbyterian counterpart as Middle East Secretary, on April 2nd his visit was only two days, but Rebecca Idler, who has been staying in Cyprus with the Bishops while she waits for permission to reside in Lebanon, stayed longer and travelled with the Bishops. And this time Susan Bishop and their two children Laura and Andrew were with Dale, and they all visited all the centers before returning to Cyprus, whence, on May 14th, the family returned to New York.

- Heather Wittler, who visited her family over Easter, for the first time in several years.

- Debby Hill and Carlo Steward, who visited Debby's parents, Doug and Lois Hill, in Izmir to show them their newest grandchild, born in February.

- Joan Reed Westra, sister of our more frequent visitor Howard Reed, who was in Turkey from April 25 to May 17 as guest of Müfit Yildirimalp, (to whom the Westra family had given hospitality and friendship while he was in the States). Müfit Bey is no stranger to the Mission, at least to Mission people who had him as teacher in the years that he was heading TAU's summer Turkish language program. This year he is co-ordinating the Mission summer language program, which will be held in August on the Uskudar campus, for Mission personnel only.

- Bill Coperthwaite, having retired from being an educator, was free to indulge in his enthusiasm for "Yurt"s - round mobile homes developed by nomad Turkic tribes living on the Asian steppes. He came to visit Donn and Chelsea Kesselheim, desirous also of locating an authentic sample yurt. He did indeed find, as he travelled about, a village near Kayseri whose inhabitants were just giving up 'yurt' - living in favor of settled housing. One family was kind enough to demonstrate how a yurt can be put together or dismantled in somewhat over the "wink of an eye" that one reads about in fairy tales. He came in March and left on May 23rd, leaving traces of his visit behind him in the form of a yurt at the Development Foundation's bee-raising center outside of Ankara and two yurts on the Robert College campus.

- Cynthia Parsons, likewise an educator (curriculum specialist and editor of the Education section of the Christian Science Monitor), who also came as guest of the Kesselheims, visited R.C. classes, gave talks, acquainted herself with education in Turkey, and fascinated people with her many-faceted conversation.

Not all travel has been Turkey-wards, however. On April 12 the Mission bade Elnora Walcott an unwilling farewell as she returned to the States to be with her mother. We miss her energy-packed presence on the Uskudar campus and in the Mission Office. Please back again Elnora.

At the end of May we said a happier "God be With You" to Ruth Gingrich, who is making a literal "flying trip" to attend her son's wedding and will be back again within the month. We wish the newly-weds happy wedding and a rich life together.

May 3-5 and 7-8, Melvin Wittler was attending conferences in Beirut. The first was a consultation of 30 persons meeting to consider possible directions for the NEST in the years ahead. Dr. Habib Bedr spoke of NEST's mission, and the acting president Dr. Ray Kiely spoke on its support, and there were also papers by local church representatives. All of this gave the second conference - the regular meeting of NEST's Board of Managers - food for thought and discussion. When one considers the never-ceasing violence in which the NEST must try to carry on a normal program, the fact that these two meetings took place is certainly a sign of faith and an expression of hope on the part of the participants. The close of the meeting was punctuated with exclamation marks in the form of a series of rhythmic shots fired in celebration of the addition of Nabih Berri, a popular leader of a Shiite movement, to the new Lebanese Cabinet. His joining seemed to the people a sign of hope that the new government might be equal to its formidable task.

But the next day came a sign that violent passions would not go away very quickly: Ben Weir, field representative of the Presbyterian Mission, was kidnapped on Tuesday, May 10th, by the Islamic Jihad Party, in protest against Reagan's Middle East policy.

By contrast, school life in Turkey seems quiet and normal. The three Board schools have been showing a great deal of activity, individual and joint. Izmir and Tarsus each held

a Spring Fair, and Uskudar co-operated with the local support organization by combining its traditional May Queen festivity with the Dernek's June bazaar, to make a super-Kermes. Among the joint activities - Izmir was host to the Tarsus drama group which performed in the Izmir School's auditorium; while Uskudar received the Izmir volleyball team to be their opponents in the last event of the Uskudar Sports Day; and members of the the three Student Councils met in Izmir, from which meeting Uskudar representatives returned much impressed by the activities they had heard about in the discussions.

The Alumni of the three schools are also working toward more joint activities. The next all-Alumni event after the March "Alma Mater" dinner was on Alma Mater Children's picnic (the parents got together and the children had fun on the Uskudar campus) on May 27. Marjory Johnson's face-painting service was much patronized, from which emerged faces painted with birds, flowers, butterflies, hearts and clowns to give even more color to an already bright day. In the relay races, the young women proved their superiority in at least one skill - in skipping rope, the young men were hopelessly far behind.

Sylvia Meyer
Acting Editor