

Bible's Cedars Get UN Help

Beirut—(NC)—The "cedars of Lebanon" of biblical and historical fame are reappearing on the mountain sides of lovely little Lebanon. The Republic of Lebanon has initiated a reforestation program to restore the famed cedars, which are quite sparse. The broad objective is to cover some of the barren mountains with the cedars to regain the country's valuable timber resource.

To assist the tiny republic, the United Nations Special Fund is financing forestry education, training and research projects to implement the program.

In conjunction with the reforestation program, the government representatives have developed an extensive agricultural project called the "Green Plan." It aims to extend cultivation to the lower slopes of the Lebanon and Amal mountains in an effort to halt erosion.

A team of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is collaborating with Lebanese officials in the program. Lebanon has designated about 800 square miles of land for the cedar reforestation project. This land comprises six individual plots.

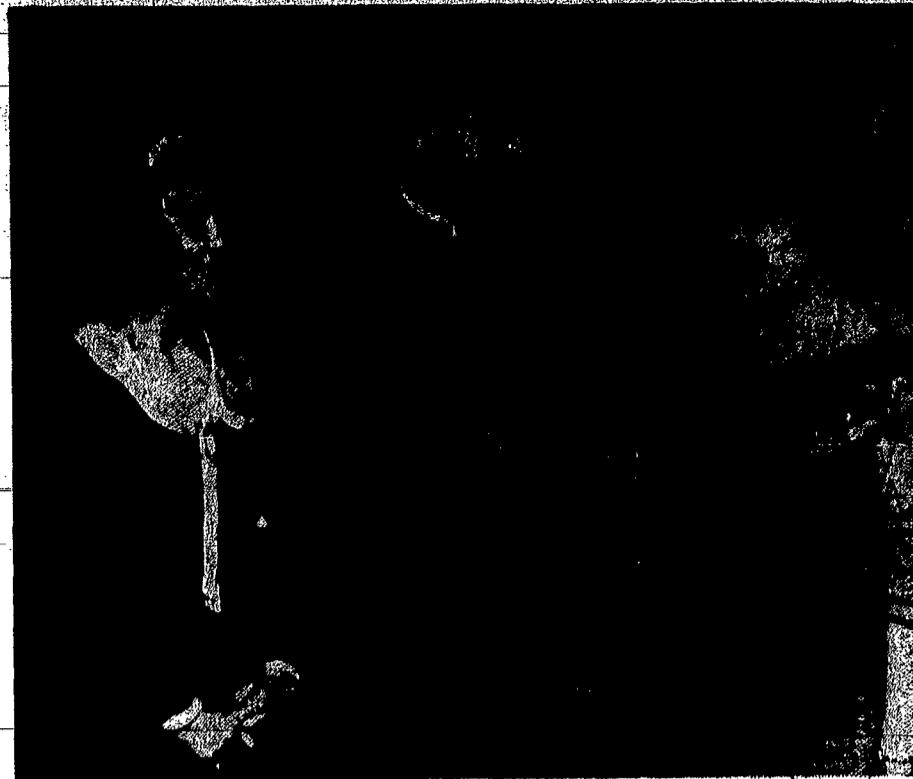
Already under the supervision of the UN experts, Lebanese

workers have cultivated 15 million seedlings in forest nurseries. Planting began this year.

Presently there are only two sizeable groves of cedars in Lebanon—one at the Mt. Lebanon above Beirut in the north and the other at Barouk in central Lebanon. The cedars in these two groves combined do not exceed 500 in number and are hundreds of years old. The Lebanese cedar, a slow-growing tree, is a true cedar. While coniferous, it is unlike the so-called Red cedars and white cedars of North America.

Thanks to the light and durable cedar lumber, the Phoenicians were able to build the first commercial fleet of ships and colonize the European and African coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea. The Phoenicians are the ancestors of today's Lebanese. The ancient Egyptians, who took many large shipments of Lebanon's famous cedar to their homeland, King Solomon could find no better lumber than the cedar of Lebanon for the construction of his temple in Jerusalem.

Old Testament writers often characterized the just man as "a cedar of Lebanon."



St. Francis Receives Gift

The Sacred Heart Society of St. Francis Church held their annual Christmas Party in the School Hall recently. Highlight of the event was the presentation of a check for \$500.00 to Rev. John Nacca, pastor, for the church fund. Making the presentation is Miss Rose Giacalo, president, as Mrs. Sam J. DeRosa, left, chairman of the party, looks on.

Woodwork Ends Poverty

Barilla — (NC) — Thanks to a suggestion made to a sick man by two American missionaries, an award-winning wood-carving industry is flourishing in this small Guatemala town.

When Esteban Ramon, a Mayan Indian, was recuperating from an illness, Father William H. Woods, M.M., of Houston, Tex., and Daniel J. MacLeod, M.M., of Quincy, Mass., who had treated him at a mission clinic, suggested that he try a little wood-carving to occupy his time.

Esteban's first carving — a crucifix — was of such high quality that the missionaries assumed there was a market for such products.

Nun at Work On Cancer

Columbus—(NC)—A Dominican nun at St. Mary of the Springs College here is one of a handful of scientists whose work has laid the foundation for a possible cancer cure.

Sister Rosari Schmeier, chairman of the college biology department, disclosed that a research method she developed over the past two years is credited with making possible the discovery that claims contain a substance which successfully reduces cancer in animals.

Her activities were mentioned in conjunction with a report on a tumor-preventive extract isolated by Dr. C.P. Lu of the National Institutes of Health.

Sister Rosari—who has been active in cancer research since she was an undergraduate here 18 years ago—has had "amazing" results with her clam extract.

So when two more sick Indians arrived at the clinic, the priests suggested that they try their hand at wood-carving while recuperating. They did, and produced quality products.

Before long, 10 more Indians expressed interest in wood-carving, and classes for them and the other three were set up. Today, these original 13 apprentices are now teachers in a wood-carving school the Maryknoll Fathers have established here.

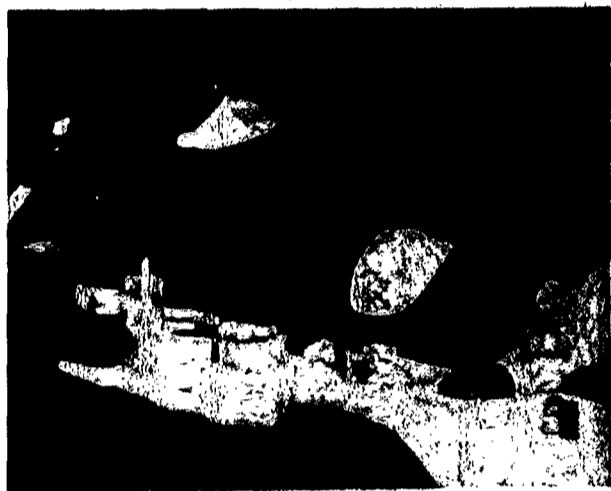
"People come to the school and are taught the art of wood-carving," said Father MacLeod. "As long as they are at the school, they receive the local daily wage. The ones who can produce saleable materials are

given further training. Then they are returned to their homes and given equipment to make carvings in their spare time. Those who show no promise are advised that such is the case.

"We have formed a cooperative with 35 of our wood-carvers," he reports. "The profits earned by them are plowed back into the school to train more of our people. There are all kinds of wood here, and we hope we can raise the socio-economic level of the area through this home industry. It's desperately needed because the vast majority of our people are poor farmers."

The wood-carving school now produces about 50 items a week. Crucifixes, statues and ornaments are the main work. "But the men are able to produce just about anything in the wood-carving line as long as they have a model from which to work," said Father MacLeod. "They are excellent craftsmen."

The main market for the products produced by the wood-carvers is the United States. Local sales have also risen lately because of the school's first place award at a Guatemalan artisan's exposition.



Sister Francis addresses the Vocation Workshop at St. Agnes for Juniors and Seniors. Also at the speakers' table are Sister Dorothy Ellen, Father Walter Crashing, school chaplain, Sister Marie Margaret and Sister Beth.

St. Agnes Sponsors Vocation Workshop

Sister Mary Lourdes of the Theology Department of Nazareth College was main guest speaker for the Vocation Workshop held at St. Agnes High School on Monday afternoon, December 7, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm for all interested Juniors and Seniors.

Striking the keynote theme of seeking in formation, Sister Dorothy Ellen, vice principal of St. Agnes, as master of ceremonies introduced Sister Mary Lourdes at the opening session of the workshop. Sister spoke on the essential nature of a vocation.

A panel of six Sisters from the faculty of St. Agnes—Sister Joanna, Sister Maria, Sister Kostka, Sister Claudia, Sister Adrienne, Sister Theresa, Daniel and Sister Marcelle—were then introduced. These Sisters summarized replies and answered pertinent questions asked on questionnaires filled out anonymously by members of the Junior and Senior classes the previous week.

Following the panel, the more than two hundred students attending the Workshop broke up into twelve informal discussion groups conducted by student leaders. A Sister consultant was also present in each of these rooms.

After a short transmission, Father Crashing of Ford Mass. at which the entire congregation sang Father Rivers Mass. All who wished received Holy Communion.

The last session of the Workshop was held in the cafeteria where dinner was served by the Burgundy Caterers. After dinner, speakers included Sister Joyce and Sister Beth, postulants of the Sisters of St. Joseph who teach at St. Agnes this year.

Protest Puts End to Movie

New York — (NC) — The showing of a movie entitled "Christ the King" in a New York City pub last night was canceled this week following a sharp protest by the Board of Education by the American Jewish Congress.

The Parents Association of Edgar L. Shuman Junior High School in Jamaica, Queens, withdrew plans to show the religious film in the school auditorium after school hours as a fund-raising event. A "Christ the King" film replaced the scheduled presentation of "Christ the King" described by Catholic Film Distributors, Inc. as "the story of Christ's passion."

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Russes Likely For All Pupils

Harrisburg — (NC) — Public-supported bus transportation for parochial and private school pupils is regarded as having a good chance of being approved by Pennsylvania's legislature in 1965.

One Republican leader in the Senate, where such legislation has been rejected in the past, said he felt "confident" the bill will pass. The GOP dominates the Senate.

He added, however, that Gov. William W. Scranton who backed the program in 1963, will have to start pushing for it early during the 1965 session.

PERRY'S Florist

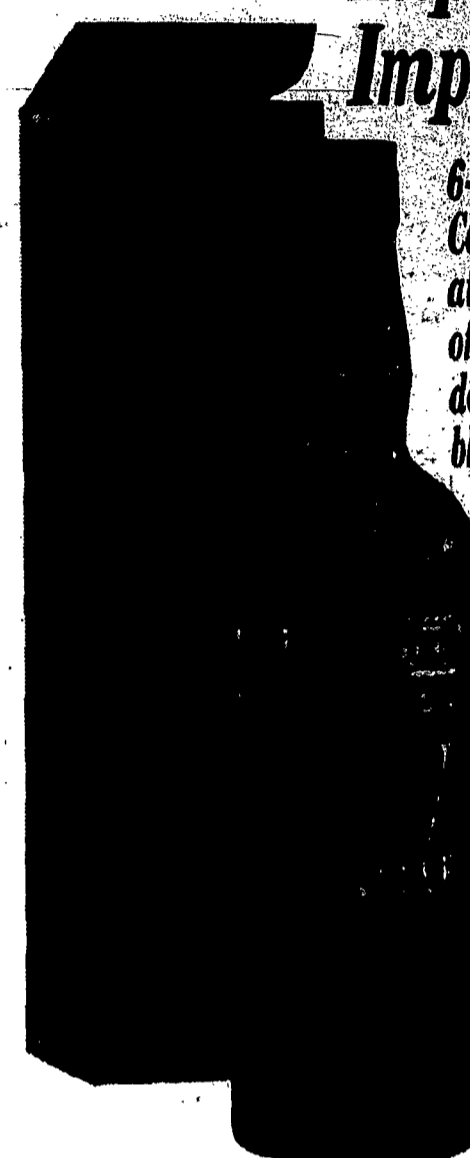
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