

ASSYRIAN STUDENT'S SCORE HIGHEST IN IRAQ

(ZNDA: Chicago) His Beatitude, Mar Gewargis Slewa, Metropolitan of Iraq & Russia, speaking by telephone from Baghdad on October 28 to the Assyrian Church of the East Radio Program in Chicago, stated that William David, a 12-year-old Assyrian boy from Ramadi, has received Iraq's highest Baccalaureate examination score ...100 of 100 points possible on every subject taken. Mr. David was invited by Mar Gewargis to Baghdad and introduced to His Holiness, Mar Dinkha IV, Patriarch of the Church of the East. The town of Ramadi is about 80 miles west of Baghdad and 25 miles west of the old Royal Airforce Station in Habbaniya.

TEXT OF THE REPORT PRESENTED TO EU PARLIAMENT - BRUSSELS

On November 8, a delegation from the Assyrian-Chaldean-Syriac Union (ACSU) presented the following report in Brussels in an effort to inform the EU Parliament of the claims of the Assyrian-Suryoye in Turkey. The EU Commission in Brussels has prepared a preliminary document of these basic claims and has requested a response from the government of Turkey prior to the end of calendar year 2000.

The Assyrian delegation submitted this report to the following individuals:

Mr. Morillon (EU Parliament, Christian Democrat)

Mr. Sakellariou (Germany, Social Democrat)

M. A. Druff (EU Parliament, Great Britain)

Others included Cohn-Bendit, Wiersma, Pirker, Swoboda

The full text was distributed to all members of the EU Parliament.

AUA-AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GALA VIP DINNER

(ZNDA: Sydney) The Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) Australian Chapter held its annual VIP dinner on 14 October 2000 at the new Assyrian Church of the East Banquet Hall "Edessa Reception" in Sydney. Guests of honour were His Grace Mar Meelis Zaia, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Diocese of Australia and New Zealand;

Senator John Nimrod, General Secretary of the AUA; and Mr. Homer Ashurian, AUA Executive Board member and former Assyrian representative in the Iranian Parliament.

Senator John Nimrod is presently the president of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO) in the Hague and the Assistant General Secretary of the UNPO for Americas.

The AUA - Australian chapter believes it is very appropriate that our leaders get closer to our Assyrian community in every country they live. It is now the custom of this chapter to invite the General Secretary of AUA every year to its annual gala VIP dinners and to organise public rallies and get together to bring the leaders closer to the Assyrian

that such policy is a model of tolerance and non-discrimination," the report said. It said the nationalism of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish state, had been elevated "into an official ideology, or even a new religion, with the status of absolute truth."

It recommended that the authorities "establish a clear principle whereby nationalism is not to be used against minority religious communities." About 99 percent of Turkey's 66 million people are Muslim, but estimates of the numbers of non-Muslims vary. The report pointed out that the last census of religious affiliation and ethnic identity was taken in 1965. The 30-page report was written by Abdelfattah Amor, special rapporteur of the

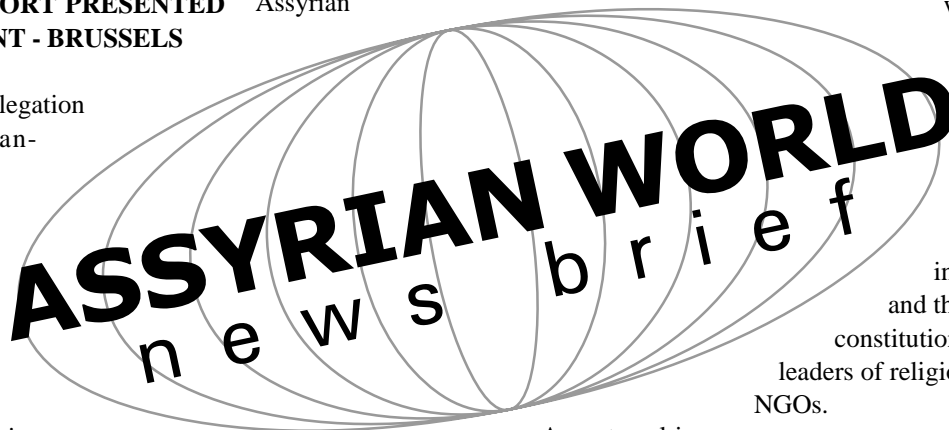
Commission on Human Rights, who visited Turkey from November 30 to December 9, 1999. During his visit, he met government and court officials including the ministers of justice, interior, and human rights and the president of the constitutional court, as well as leaders of religious minorities and NGOs.

Amor said that leaders of Turkey's 25,000 Jews were "unanimous in insisting that the situation of their community was wholly satisfactory."

But he said that, unlike Greek and Armenian Christians, Jews had made no claim to land within Turkey, while Israel and Turkey had close relations.

He quoted the Armenian Orthodox patriarch as saying that his followers, estimated at between 60,000 and 93,000, enjoyed full freedom of worship, but the patriarchate had no legal status. Similarly, the patriarchate of Turkey's 2,500-4,000 Greek Orthodox Christians could not own property or receive revenue, he said. The Greek Orthodox and the smaller Syriac communities were slowly disappearing, Amor said.

He recommended that the government guarantee minorities the rights to establish their own places of worship, and to teach their religion and train clergy. He also said the government "should ensure that Islam does not become a political tool, a situation that could escalate in ways that would promote religious extremism."



Australian community, to brief the Assyrian organisations about the recent activities of AUA, its progress and the general situation of the Assyrian people, particularly in the Middle East. The General Secretary informs the Assyrians about the outcome of AUA's international conferences and meetings.

UNITED NATIONS REPORT URGES TURKEY TO PROTECT MINORITIES

Excerpts from the UN report on Turkey published last month; Courtesy of Agence France Presse

Turkey should tighten the wording of its laws so as to better protect its small religious minorities, and should do more to combat intolerance, according to a UN report released Thursday.

It said that although the 1982 Turkish constitution guaranteed religious freedom and belief, there were obstacles to non-Muslim groups owning property and establishing their own schools.

State policy on religion was "exceedingly complex" and contrasted sharply with "the categorical assertion by certain authorities

TURKEY ARREST PRIEST FOR CONFIRMING ASSYRIAN HOLOCAUST



The following is a press release of the Assyrian Democratic Organization (Mtakasta)

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2000

(ZNDA) During the debate within the U.S. Congress regarding HR596, the Armenian Genocide Resolution, an infuriated Turkish government mounted an unprecedented all out assault on the historic fact of the Assyrian-Armenian-Greek Genocide of 1915. Well-documented Turkish threats against the U.S. government were accompanied by even greater persecution of Turkey's own citizenry.

Quite regrettably, in early October, journalists from a major Turkish newspaper, Hurriyet, interviewed an Assyrian (Syriac) priest from St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church in Diyarbakir with the hope of eliciting a Christian denial of the 1915 Holocaust. Rather than succumbing to the escalating hysteria of threats and intimidation within Turkey, Fr. Yusuf Akbulut instead confirmed that the Armenian genocide and insisted that Assyrians (Syriacs) had also been similarly victimized. Fr. Yusuf added that Kurds had also been willing accomplice in the killing and that the holocaust was an undeniable historic fact. Fr. Yusuf defiantly asserted that Bet Nahrain (Mesopotamia) is the land of the Assyrians (Syriacs) and that irrespective of U.S. Congressional action, "we will have our voices heard throughout the world."

The Turkish response was predictably swift and brutal. On October 4, the Hurriyet newspaper carried an article with a photograph of Fr. Yusuf entitled "icimizdeki hain" meaning "A Traitor Amongst Us" with a subheading quoting Fr. Yusuf as saying "Not only Armenians were killed, Assyrians (Syriacs) were also killed." The outrage from within Turkey led Turkish military security agents to arrest Fr. Yusuf on October 6 from his church in Diyarbakir. Although earlier reports had stated that Fr. Yusuf had been freed, in reality he remains imprisoned and charged with treason. Fr. Yusuf's

court date is scheduled in military court on December 21, 2000. Under Turkish law, the charge of treason, if sustained, is punishable by death.

There is grave concern for Fr. Yusuf's physical well being while he remains in Turkish custody. The vitriolic Hurriyet newspaper headline labeling Fr. Yusuf as a traitor to the Turkish nation is believed intended to stir passions and lead to vigilante or extra judicial attacks against Fr. Yusuf by fundamentalists or security forces. Moreover, there is reason to believe that Fr. Yusuf is being physically and psychological mistreated as he awaits word on his possible execution if he is found guilty of treason. Thus far, Fr. Yusuf has not been allowed visitor or adequate legal defense.

The Turkish government has likewise increasingly threatened other members of the Assyrian (Syriac) community into condemning Fr. Yusuf's statements. Some clergy, terrified at the prospects of a renewed campaign of persecution against the remaining few thousand Assyrian (Syriac) Christians in southeastern Turkey, had acquiesced in the face of these mounting threats.

The arrest of Fr. Yusuf and the subsequent threats against the Assyrian (Syriac) community in southeastern Turkey underscore Turkey's insecurity in dealing with its bloody past and with its present day Assyrian (Syriac) Christian minority. Now clamoring to join the European Union, Turkey continues to demonstrate a primitive, draconian approach to historical and political debate with a penchant for brutality and intolerance. Despite universal and continuous international criticism of its behavior, Turkey continues to show a perverse disdain for any semblance of civility. Still more, despite the international community's insistence on greater openness and tolerance, Turkey still refuses to show any proclivity towards respect for even the most basic of human rights.

We of the Assyrian Democratic Organization demand that Turkey immediately and unconditionally release Fr. Yusuf Akbulut and end the menacing intimidation of the Assyrian (Syriac) community. We also demand Turkey's acknowledgment of its role in the Assyrian-Armenian-Greek Holocaust.

This month's issue of Nakosha sees a new editor take over the "reigns" of what has come to be one of the most unique Assyrian magazines ever published. The old editor, Sennacherib Warda, a good friend and colleague, felt as though he needed some time to reflect and contemplate after three years of service to the Assyrian community. He has stepped down and handed over the running of the magazine to me.

Sennacherib Warda's vision, when he took over the magazine, at issue 3, saw it clearly define its target audience, and cater for the neglected Assyrian youth. Nakosha was to be an instrument for the advancement and liberation of the Assyrian youth, and he wielded this instrument with a lot of originality and boldness. With his guidance, Nakosha defined itself as a social youth magazine with remarkable success. He also felt that it was very important that the community's youth also get involved in the running of the magazine.

With that thought, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome any new writers, contributors, and yes, even critics to actively join the Nakosha team and crystallise their thoughts on the pages of Nakosha.

On the international front, Australia's very own, Assyrian Relief Fund, kicked off an appeal to raise funds for the families and survivors of the Tel Tamar tragedy, reported last month. The funds will be used to help meet the medical and financial needs of survivors, as well as providing some assistance to families who have lost their loved ones.

It is also with great regret that we bring you the sad news of the recent arrest of Father Yusuf Akbulut, a Syrian Orthodox priest from St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church in Diyarbakir, Turkey. He was recently arrested for freely expressing his beliefs in a non-violent manner, by the Turkish authorities. Fr. Yusuf is now being held by the Turkish authorities and faces charges, in an upcoming December 21 trial. It appears as though Assyrian history will continue to be cyclical, unless Assyrians worldwide express their concern for Father Yusuf and protest at the continued persecution. I urge you all to pray for Father Yusuf and await the outcome of the coming trial. ■

David Chibo

ASSYRIAN AWARENESS

Sign the petition addressed to major Human Rights Groups at www.atour.com/~assyrians

editor's note

THE MESOPOTAMIAN MUSEUM



Situated in the city of Chicago, the white building subtly reveals its contents, to the world, through the guard that stand at its entrance. Named the Mesopotamian Museum, its entrance is flanked by two Assyrian human-headed winged bulls, giving entrants a suitable introduction to what will be a very promising tour of ancient Assyria. The story of the Mesopotamian Museum is the story of Dr. Norman Sulkhah, a psychologist by trade, who initiated one of the most unique projects in the Assyrian world.

Dr. Sulkhah had always felt a sense of duty to his persecuted and scattered Assyrian people. In 1995, after visiting Helsinki University, for the 10 year anniversary of Assyriological Studies, Dr. Norman Sulkhah returned to his home town, of Chicago, and decided to establish the Mesopotamian Museum. For the first time in his life Mr. Sulkhah had seen non-Assyrians boast about Assyrian history. "They took so much pride in history, in our history," Dr. Sulkhah said with amazement. The reason for establishing this museum, was according to Dr. Sulkhah, because "Something sparked me into initiating this."

Since then he moved to acquire pieces from Helsinki, Canada, Turkey, Syria and America. Casts,

archaeologists.

Years in the making, the Mesopotamian Museum was officially opened by Dr. Norman Sulkhah to the public on October 27th, 2000, during the 3rd annual meeting of the Assyrian and Babylonian Intellectual Heritage.



Some of the Museum's highlights include a life-size replica of the throne room of King Shalmaneser III (858-824 B.C.), discovered at the archaeological site at Tall Ahmar, as well as a replica of the world famous Ishtar gate of Babylon.

Artists were commissioned to blend the two-dimensional bas relief replicas with new three-dimensional full color paintings as well as statues, that give viewers a sense of what the ancient Assyrian Empire would really have

on permanent loan from Harvard University, are on display. These very casts, had originally been made in England in the late 19th century, and are copies of original bas reliefs discovered in Assyria, by English

been like. One of the best paintings, aptly given the title of the 'Assyrian Mount Rushmore', was inspired by the bas reliefs in the Zagros mountains of seven Assyrian kings. The three-dimensional painting shows the heads of the ancient Assyrian kings lined up side by side on a mountain range.

When asked about how the project was funded Dr. Sulkhah replied, "My money is a blessing from God," I can't take this with me when I go. I thought I would do something of value to our people while I was here and enjoy it as well."

Besides the Mesopotamian Museum, Dr. Sulkhah is also busy with other related projects. Dr. Sulkhah has cosponsored digs in Syria and Turkey. He was also one of the driving forces behind Helsinki University's Assyrian continuity project, known as the Melammu Project.

The Mesopotamian Museum, as well as the numerous projects, in which he is currently involved, bear testament to words of wisdom, he apparently lives by, from one of his favorite writers, Khalil Gibran.

"A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that remains idle."■

David Chibo

References :

Bringing Assyrian Glory To Chicago, p30,31,35 - *Nabu Quarterly*, Volume 3, Issue1, 1997



Caribbean Life

What's the name of your favourite book, and why did it have such an impact on your life?

M/17/Australia/Sydney

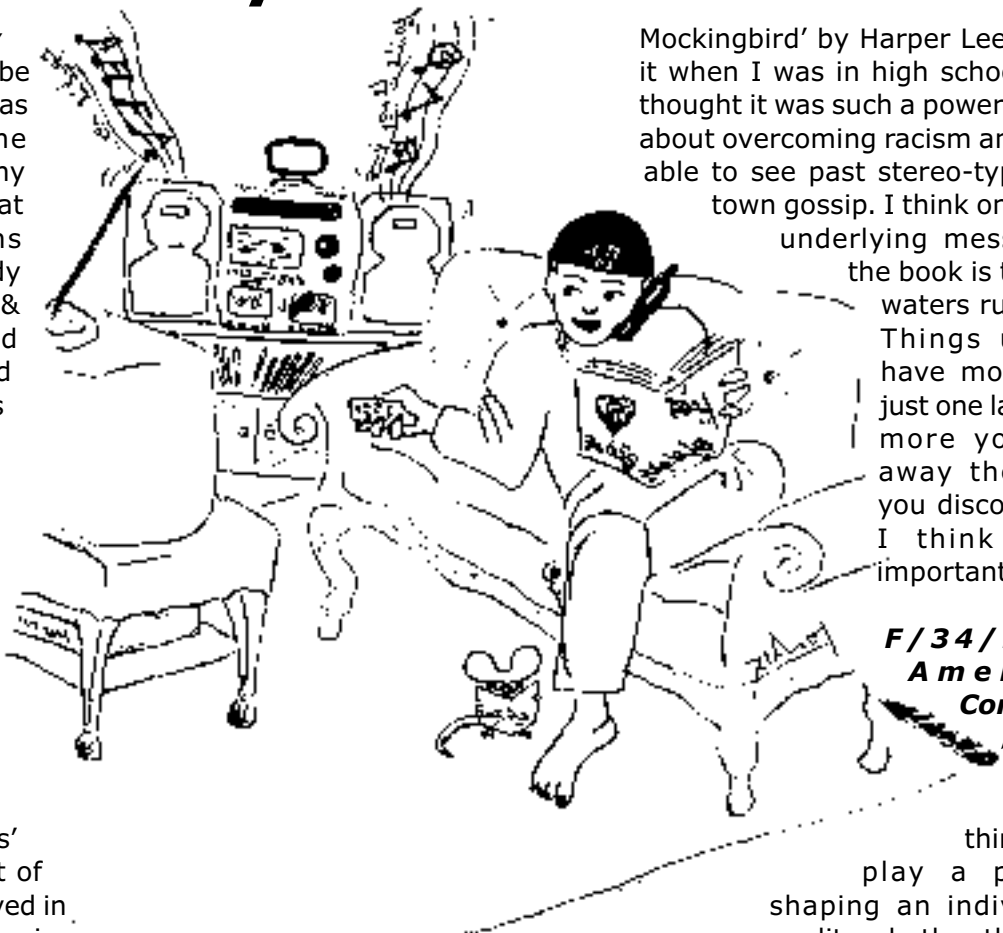
►►My favourite book has to be "Shall this Nation Die?". It was written in 1921 after the Genocide and contains many eyewitness accounts of what happened in the regions other than those we already know of (i.e. Hakkiari & Urmia) and what happened to the Assyrians that lived there. The horrific details are all spelt out there in black and white, and the photographs of the survivors puts a human face on a part of our history that we take for granted. It changed my life as from it I learnt that I am descended from the lucky third of our nation that managed to escape the massacres and survive the mass exodus' to refugee camps. Yes, out of 1,130,000 Assyrians that lived in the Turkish and Persian Empires, 750,000 (almost 2 thirds) were obliterated in a few years through mass-deportations, massacres and ethnic cleansing. It was indeed a Genocide despite the efforts of the Turkish Government to cover it all up. The book has prompted me to seek justice for our martyrs and to work for the recognition of our this crime against humanity, the first Genocide of the 20th century, by the international community.

They did not die in vain!

This book is available online at:
<http://www.aina.org/shalt.htm>

M/23/Down Under

►►BOOKS: Jules Vern Classics
Because they aroused my sense of curiosity, challenged the imagination and demonstrated how science fiction inevitably becomes



Mockingbird' by Harper Lee. I read it when I was in high school and I thought it was such a powerful book about overcoming racism and being able to see past stereo-types and town gossip. I think one of the underlying message of the book is that still waters run deep. Things usually have more than just one layer, the more you peel away the more you discover and I think that's important.

F/34/North American Continent

►►There are many things that play a part in shaping an individual's personality whether they may be books, people, or any other self defining interest. There are 2 books which i can say that they gave me an outlook on life which i think is important to have a positive attitude since un fortunately many people in today's busy life can't even see optimism in their lives and they put on very dark glasses and shut out the whole world.

1- Stories that my grandmother used to tell.
2- The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway.
3- The Prophet by Gibran Khalil Gibran.

The stories that my grandmother(God Bless her soul) have endured the trials of time and carried on with me till today some sad and some happy,yet they taught and helped me to be a better person,i wish that today's and later

M/18/West Bloomfield, MI

►►It is hard to choose just one book that is my favorite... I read a lot. I guess it would be a three way tie between "Not Even My Name" by Thea Halo (you all know that this is an incredible book!), "The O'Reilly Factor" by Bill O'Reilly which is an excellent guide to the truth, and "The Last Temptation of Christ" which is a fiction book about the life of Christ, but nonetheless it helped me understand my religion much better. I would recommend that ALL of our youth read these books, especially Not Even My Name.

F/22/sydney

►►My favourite book is 'To Kill a

generations would sit and talk to their grandparents if they are lucky enough to have them and see how much they can learn things that will help them in their lives to find an oasis of peace and happiness every time when things seem to go in a difficult path.

The two books even though to many sound so simple yet they have a profound effect that i think we can sense later on. It's really incredible how much a person can learn if he/

she has dreams and a will to survive and contine then nothing will be impossible,also learning how to be patient and not look at every thing in a manner that if i can't have a certain thing then it's not worth tending to other matters.Lessons can be learned from almost any thing.

F/23/Melbourne

▶▶My best book in my life is "Follow Your Heart" By Susanna Tamaro. I

like the story in this book b/c i really learing many things from it. the story was how to follow your heart. i think it's important in our life to follow our heart, i know some times we do confuse what to follow heart,mined? But in my opinoin we should follow our heart.

I hope you have chance to read this story. If you want my copy of this book i can give it to any1 who want to read it, and i am sure they well learn just like I learn.

S  **CC** **ER**
MORELAND UNITED SOCCER CLUB

As a long-time member of the Northern Suburbs athletic community, **Moreland United Soccer Club** is always looking for new opportunities to promote our sport to the people. Due to our development and expansion as a club over the past five years, we now have an opportunity to offer the youth of our community a new challenge.

During these past five years **Moreland United** has progressed both on and off the field. We have been located at the expansive facilities of **Moomba Park Reserve, off Anderson Road, Fawkner.**

While based there, we have advanced through the divisions at **Senior** level. We currently compete in the **Provisional League - Second Division; North West.** Encouraged by our success at this level we want to achieve the same with the youth of our community.

We are pleased to announce that, beginning the **19th of November**, training will commence for our **Under-16's** junior teams at **10:30am.** Training for the remainder of the junior teams commences in mid-January, next year. We invite all interested players to contact the club to register their

interest for the especially big season to come. With the firm support of the community, we will set out to raise the funds to make this season a big one for our youngsters. It will be a big season, especially for the youngsters of the **Under 16's**, because we have been given the special opportunity to have this team compete in an international tournament in Europe.

The tournament is organised by FIFA. It is set to take place in the middle of 2001. With a view to this, we have acquired the services of renowned junior coach, Claudio Sciarra. He guided the Brunswick Zebras Under-16 and Under-17 teams to success - they won and finished runners-up respectively - in similar international tournaments in 1999. With his lead, we look forward to also achieving great results at Moreland United.

This is a great opportunity for the youth of our community. We look forward to meeting the budding young soccer stars on November 19, where we will begin our journey to success.■

CLUB CONTACTS:

0415 633 077 – Claudio Sciarra. (JUNIOR COACHING CO-ORDINATOR)

0407 848 011 – Michael Eyar. (CLUB SECRETARY)

0413 952 584 – Ninos Yuail. (CLUB TREASURER)

P.O Box 138, Fawkner, Vic; 3060

Moomba Park Reserve; cnr Anderson Rd & McBryde St. Fawkner. Clubroom No: 9357-2926.

Tel Tamar Appeal



Assyrians all over the world were shocked and saddened to hear the news of the tragic bus accident at Tel-Tamar Syria, which claimed the lives of 6 Assyrian soccer players and injured many others.

This tragic accident has not only robbed them of their loved ones, it has also caused a great deal of trauma and agony to the parents, family members and close friends of the victims.

Under these traumatic and Tragic circumstances the Assyrian Relief Fund is extending its helping hand to the families of the Tel Tamar

victims and it is appealing to the public to join and help with what ever they can. Donations can be mailed to:

Assyrian Relief Fund
 PO Box 1032 Valley Plaza
 Green Valley NSW 2168

Or you can contact the following:
Sydney Dr. Mariam D. Josph
(02) 9826 8280

Melbourne, Mr. David Chibo
(03) 9359-0362

ARF will endeavor to send donations to victim's families before Christmas. God rest their souls.■

Dr. Mariam Joseph

ملف لغوي

كلمة لغوية

حُرْمًا.....	bree-ro.....	innocent.....	bree-ra.....	تذبح
سُحًا.....	hoy-bo.....	guilty.....	kha-ya-wa.....	سُحَّ
الْحُرْمَةُ.....	aa-lee-so-eeth.....	necessity.....	aa-lee-sa-eeth.....	تذبح
سُبْحًا.....	seb-yo-no.....	free will.....	su-ya-na.....	سُبْحًا
أَنَا.....	yo-tho.....	ego.....	ya-tha.....	أَنَا
أَنَا.....	tir-tho.....	conscience.....	ter-tha.....	أَنَا
مَدَبٌ وَمَدَبَةٌ.....	mpha-ren-so-noo-tho.....	administration.....	mpa-ren-sa-noo-tha.....	مَدَبٌ وَمَدَبَةٌ
مَدَبٌ.....	mpha-ren-so-no.....	administrator.....	mpa-ren-sa-na.....	مَدَبٌ
مَدَبٌ وَمَدَبَةٌ.....	mdab-ro-noo-tho.....	management.....	mdab-ra-noo-tha.....	مَدَبٌ وَمَدَبَةٌ
مَدَبٌ.....	mdab-ro-no.....	manager.....	mdab-ra-na.....	مَدَبٌ

learn your
language



BATTERY WORLD PRESTON **PH.13 1760**
Independently owned and operated by Michael Younan **24 HR SERVICE**

497 Plenty Rd.
Preston, Vic. 3072
Phone: (03) 9471 2655 Fax: (03) 9471 2699
Mobile: 0414 474 000
Email: service@batteryworld.com.au
www.batteryworld.com.au

Michael & Simon Younan
Managers

ASSYRIAN WOMEN'S WORLD



www.atour.com/~women
A place for all Assyrian women.

- Features -
- Assyrian Women's Conference
 - Assyrian Women's Network Archives



The Assyrian Youth Group of Victoria is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation. It seeks to promote the Assyrian culture, history and language, as well as the Assyrian name and community, bringing it to the world stage.

AYGV

P.O. BOX 948 Merlynston, Victoria, 3058. Australia.
nakosha@atour.com - www.atour.com/aygv



NINEVEH GALLERY

Walk through the ancient palaces of the greatest of Assyria's kings. View the bas reliefs depicting ceremonial rituals, hunting and war scenes carved over 2600 years ago. A full historical record of the Assyrian kings as well as a description of each image are provided in both English and Assyrian.

Price: \$35AUS + \$5 p&h - for further info contact the AYGV

Assyrian Relief Fund

assisting Assyrians
where ever they are...

Send donations to
PO Box 1032 Valley Plaza, Green
Valley, Sydney, NSW 2168, Australia.

Fax:..... 61 2 9755 7571
E-mail: arfaus@hotmail.com

