

Former visitor to Iran analyzes turmoil there

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

in 1957 during a five-month trip around the world and again in 1968 during a six-month world tour.

ON ONE of the visits, she and her friend were guests of the then minister of agriculture and his wife and children.

"Our hostess was probably the leading woman in Iran working for young women," Dr. James said. "She worked without fear or favor. She was much respected and much loved."

"I have not heard from the family in four years," she added. "It is a cause of great heartache."

Dr. James said she had tried to follow recent events in Iran "with care and I hope with understanding."

"It is easy to blame Britain (for what has happened) and it is easy to blame the United States," she said. "But we

are not being told what is happening and I am not sure who she should blame.

"WE ARE IN a box and I don't envy the position the president (Carter) is in at the present time," she said. Dr.



Dr. Thelma G. James believes that religions are being manipulated for political reasons in Iran.

James believes Iran will be divided in the future with half going to Israel and "half to God knows where. I don't see what there is to hold that country together."

Because of her background as a teacher of the Bible and religion, Dr. James says she thinks often of the Moslem, Christian and Jewish roots of the people of Iran.

"The more I think about it the more baffled I become," she said. "At the present time the religious roots are being cultivated for political reasons. The right word is lacking but there is a way of doing things that controls people.

"Iran is manipulating its religions to justify things," she added.

DR. JAMES describes the Mullah as "the control group, the managers, who train people what, how and when to think."

"It is not a feeling that Americans by and large are comfortable with, that somebody is always telling you what you think," she said.

Americans "don't know anything about Iran," Dr. James believes. "They have a totally different set of values and way of life."

"We're free to disagree but you don't find that in Islamic countries and it has

demand a terrible price of the people."

Asked if she believed the deposed Shah was a bad person, Dr. James said, "I have thought about that a lot."

She answered the question indirectly by discussing the value of human life in America, in Iran and in other countries.

"HUMAN LIFE is not valued" around the world as it is in America," she said. "It is a question of values. One thing has been growing on me and that is the cheapness of human life when it is the most precious thing we have."

Dr. James answered simply "no" when asked if she thought the deposed shah should be returned to Iran.

Aides ready to assist with 1979 tax returns

Tax aides, all members of the Farmington Chapter of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), began their 1979-80 Tax Aide Program giving free assistance to senior citizens and retirees in preparing 1979 income tax returns.

The aides will assist with both federal and state tax returns at two locations in this area: The Gathering Place, located in Mercy Center, on 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, and in Farmington Community Library on Liberty Street.

Aides will be stationed in The Gathering Place from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Jan. 18 and 25, and on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Aides will be stationed in Farmington Community Library from noon-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.

The schedule for February, March and April, concluding on April 11 will be listed in the Farmington Observer's Community Calendar.

The Tax Aide program was initiated by members of the local AARP as a service to senior adults in this area five years ago. The program has since branched out to reach 20 communities.

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TIME OF THE END PROPHECY SEMINARS COMES TO AREA BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2

AN INTERVIEW WITH CLYDE THOMAS

Q. Mr. Thomas, as director of the "Time of the End Prophecy Seminar" coming to this area, would you summarize the purpose of your program for us?

A. Our seminar is designed to clearly explain Bible prophecy as it relates to the issues behind significant world events of today.

Q. What makes your seminar different from regular church meetings?

A. While churches generally concentrate on the gospel of Jesus Christ, and rightly so, our seminar classes concentrate on God's involvement in history and the principles that have made it possible for his people to live through the most critical periods. The book of Daniel, which many hesitate to study today, specifically details prophecy for our day, which the Bible calls the "Time of the End."

Q. But isn't concentration on the "Last Events" of the world being a bit pessimistic?

A. Not at all. When we understand God's character and His master plan in history, we have courage and direction for the crisis ahead as well as assurance and hope for the future.

Q. Don't the many interpretations of prophecy make it really a matter of private interpretation?

A. That's a good question. We will spend much of our seminar time showing how the Bible actually interprets itself. The keys that open up this understanding are all there, waiting to be discovered.

Q. Where and when do you plan to begin your seminars?

A. There will be six seminar locations. Each will meet once a week for ten weeks.

Farmington Area Seminars:
North, beginning Tuesday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m.
South, beginning Saturday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Livonia Area Seminars:
North, beginning Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m.
South, beginning Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Plymouth-Canton Area Seminars:
Central, beginning Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m.
West, beginning Saturday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Q. Is pre-registration for the seminar possible?

A. Yes, and it's especially helpful in order to insure adequate seating and seminar materials. Simply call 427-0393 or 981-3031.

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