

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

ALGERS M. B.
ED. 1940

A THIRSTY LAND

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“ His mercy endureth for ever.” *Psalm 107.*

There was none to help—
Then they cried unto the Lord—and He saved them.

They draw near unto the gates of death—
Then they cry unto the Lord—and He saveth them.

They are at their wit's end—
Then they cry unto the Lord—and He bringeth them
out of their distresses.”

“From crowding things of sense I flee, and in Thee hide.
Until this tyranny be overpast,
Thy hand will hold me fast ;
What though the tumult of the storm increase,
Grant to Thy servant strength, O Lord, and bless with peace.”
(From Dohnavur, by kind permission.)

Editorial

The October issue of *A Thirsty Land* should be our Report Number, but this time the record of the year's work is written only in the books of Heaven. We can, however, praise God for the wonderful way in which, in spite of war conditions, doors were kept open and even advance made in the spreading of the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Since France capitulated Algeria has been under enemy influence. It is therefore difficult to communicate freely with our workers, but we have had news from them which, on the whole, is cheering. French friends have remained staunch, and

much kindness has been shown through the summer. Some of our workers have been in Algiers during the holiday weeks. Through the kindness of American missionaries, who lent their seaside house, several had an enjoyable holiday, and others stayed for a time at the sea with N.A.M. friends.

All members of the A.M.B. were expecting to return, if possible, to their Stations after conference days at Dar Naama, early in September. Those at Home are Miss Sheach who was unable to return for health reasons, and Miss MacIlroy, who returned to Ireland, on the death of her sister during the Spring. Some furloughs were due this

summer but could not of course be taken. Travelling in Algeria has to be by permit. There is a shortage of certain things such as soap and petrol, and of some foodstuffs, but our workers have, thank God, been kept in good health, and they say they have no reason to complain.

We hear that Georges Nicoud, eldest son of Monsieur and Madame Pierre Nicoud, is still very ill, and likely to be so for a long time. For him, and for Kenneth Buckenham, now on foreign service with the British Army, let us pray, and also for the parents of both.

The present position, politically, of Algeria has made it impossible to despatch money for the maintenance of our workers. We have made many enquiries and have done our best to obtain permission to send the needed funds. Till now (the middle of September) we have been unsuccessful, but have reason to believe that we have the necessary permit at last in hand, and hope to be able to send, regularly, to the Field. The sending of funds has to be, in all cases at present, through our Office. The American Consulate has meanwhile advanced relief to British subjects, so that there has been no acute shortage, for which we are thankful.

We shall be most grateful for prayer that in all questions to be decided and in all steps taken, we may have the clear guidance of God's Spirit. It is most difficult to communicate with the Field and this adds to the problems to be faced. But we know that in answer to prayer God will work in us "both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Everything seems so uncertain in these days of world upheaval, but "The foundation of God standeth sure." Let us pray for our fellow-workers that in their concern about their loved ones at home and in all the difficulties they may have to face, they—and we—may find that "The Name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and is safe."

During this Spring Miss Alice Kemp was called into Christ's presence. Miss Kemp was staying in Algiers when Miss Trotter first began work there, and she was a close

friend through all the years. For a time, to her great joy, she was able to be an active member of the Band, and to live at Dar Naama. It was Miss Kemp's constant pleasure to be in close touch with the work and workers, praying, helping in any way possible, and interesting others. She was a very gentle and loving woman of a retiring disposition, but with a heart and mind set to do God's will. Perhaps her chief joy was to give financial help to the work in its various branches. Down through the years, as long as she was able, Miss Kemp was a most generous and faithful giver, and she has left a legacy to the Band, for which, specially in these difficult days, we do most gratefully thank our Heavenly Father.

In the early Summer it was a tremendous joy to meet with a large group of Algerian native soldiers here in our own Land. It was wonderful to have the opportunity once more of giving the message of God's love in Christ, to Moslems. The delight and surprise of these dear fellows at hearing their own tongue in a strange land was very touching. Some day we will tell the whole story, D.V. Meanwhile, please pray that God's purpose in allowing this to happen may be fulfilled.

There have been many changes of address among the friends of the A.M.B., but we hope that this Thirsty Land News Sheet will find them all, eventually, wherever they may be. It will depend partly on how much we hear from Algeria as to when we send out our next *News Sheet*. We will do our very best to keep our friends in touch with those on the Field.

A paragraph from Miss Trotter's writings comes with fresh power and meaning, these days. Mentioning the struggle and the stress through which Job and Daniel passed, she says, "So when we feel doubts surging up as to God's way with us being His best, when the cry that we knew to be God-given brings no answer, when . . . we stand dumb before Him, let us remember that we are up against the same powers as withstood God's people of old—let us "wrestle" through to victory!"

M. H. ROCHE.
(Hon. Secretary.)

Items of News from the Field

(TAKEN FROM PRIVATE LETTERS.)

On our National Day of Prayer, Sunday, September 8th, "A special prayer meeting was held at Dar Naama."

"We have quiet talks with sick and needy ones and find many who are glad of sympathy in their sorrow. In your prayers remember us. We are studying Revelation together up here, and Christ's return seems very near so we can "look up," and "watch." The French Protestants are preaching this very beautifully—God is speaking out of the great sorrow."

"We go every Wednesday to the English Church for a special Service of intercession—it is a great comfort to be able to do that. When any letters come we all

share each others, it is such a comfort to be able to do this."

"Monsieur Lull has been having such a good time selling and distributing the Scriptures during the Summer."

"How wonderful it is to prove the reality of God's own promises in these days; they are daily being made a blessing to us, and we believe it is the same with you. Do not be anxious about us for all our needs are being wonderfully supplied and we have so many kind friends in the land.

"I wish I could send you some of our fruit. I have never seen such lovely peaches as we have this year, also plums, strawberries, melons and grapes.

"F. (native girl) is with us. God has certainly answered many of our prayers for her. She has grown much spiritually. We have had many loving letters from T. longing for our return."

"So far there seems nothing to hinder our going on quietly with our work, and we are just praying that God will clearly guide us all in the coming days."

We usually publish our Balance Sheets (Home and Field) together. There seems no likelihood of getting the one from the Field at present. We therefore publish the Home Accounts which have been most kindly audited as usual by Mr. C. Neville Russell.

M. H. R.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND HOME OFFICE ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1940

| RECEIPTS. | | PAYMENTS. | |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| To Cash in hand and at Bank, 1st July, 1939 | | | 68 13 8 |
| " General Fund: | | | 40 19 8 |
| Subscriptions and Donations | £1,325 4 6 | | 27 14 0 |
| Appropriated Gifts (including legacy of £324 from the late Miss Butler) | | | 51 7 8 |
| Upkeep of Dar Naama: | | | 31 13 1 |
| Dividends and Interest | 102 16 3 | | 83 0 9 |
| Income Tax recovered | 17 19 8 | | |
| Royalties Received ... | 16 9 10 | | |
| Sale of £430 9s. War Loan, 3½ per cent | | 137 5 9 | |
| | | 400 0 0 | |
| | | | 1,795 5 7 |
| | | | 615 4 4 |
| | | | £2,521 4 8 |
| | | | £2,521 4 8 |

INVESTMENTS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE BAND.

| | |
|--|---|
| 200 Anglo Argentine Tramways 4 per cent Debenture Stock. | £ |
| 20 Industrial and General Trust Stock. | |
| 360 Investment Trust Corporation Deferred Stock. | |
| 528 War Loan 3½ per cent. | |
| 1,060 Conversion 5 per cent, 1944/61. | |

I have examined the foregoing accounts with the books and vouchers, and have found them to be correct. I have also verified the Investments.

11, Poultry,
E.C.2.

C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.
(Incorporated Accountant.)

22nd July, 1940.