

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

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The Quarterly Magazine of the Algiers Mission Band

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“ Behold now is the accepted time ; behold now is the day of Salvation ”

—2 Cor. 6, 2.

“ ALREADY THE SUN IS RISING IN AFRICA. ”—*Field-Marshal Smuts.*

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

Since the last *A Thirsty Land* was issued, we have all been intensely thrilled by the news of the Crusade of freedom and succour undertaken by Britain and America in North Africa.

We are most thankful to have had direct news (though no details) of the well-being of workers of the A.M.B. since the Allied Occupation. All the restrictions on their movements from place to place in Algeria have been removed. The food situation will be easier without doubt, and the missionaries will rejoice as the necessities of life become available to the poorer Arabs who have been in need, beyond their power to help.

Let us pray much that a speedy victory may, in God's mercy, be given to the Allied Forces, and also that God will shield His workers from harm and use them for His glory in these wonderful and terrible days.

Edmund Buckenham is now serving with the Army out there. Both he, and his elder brother Kenneth already in the Forces, need our prayers. No “ Rally ” being possible in October, letters were collected from all, at Headquarters (Dar Naama), and sent round. Some have come to me, and I quote mainly from these. All were, of course, written and despatched before the Allied Occupation.

Miss Perkin, enumerating causes for thanksgiving, praises God for “ His people, with many anxieties and privations of their own, who, ‘ according to their power and beyond their power, ’ contribute to our needs, never losing interest in our work, and never ceasing to intercede for us. I pray our Heavenly Father that He may be able to carry out to the full His purpose for the A.M.B. in these troubled times.”

Miss Grautoff writes from Miliana, “ The Septuagint version of Psalm 46. 1, reads : ‘ God is our refuge and strength, our helper in the troubles which often befall us. ’ This has been fulfilled this year for us in many ways. One of these has been the innumerable acts of kindness on the part of French, Arab, and Jewish friends, and the fellowship of Christians. Above all, when restriction to this little town seemed so irritating, God sent a calmness of mind to accept what He was permitting, in place of the sense of injustice. Another balm has been that we have been daily needed by those in suffering or trouble. So the summer has not dragged. The window with its Bibles has witnessed, and unexpected opportunities for selling copies of God's Word have come. Our prayer request is that we may have our ‘ cord lengthened, ’ so as to be able to visit needy ones outside the town.” (Already answered!—ED.)

Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham writing from Blida say: "No sooner had the classes ceased, in the past session, than upon every occasion of our coming upon children at their play we were accosted with the invariable question, 'When do we come again to learn?' Similarly from the shrouded women pedestrians on our way, some have been eager not to miss the opportunity of re-knitting the bonds of affection. Evidence still more marked has been shown by others who have been most responsive to the Message. These have come up to the Station from time to time for intercourse and fellowship in praise and prayer. We cannot speak with the same clarity of the young men who, for a season, came frequently to the house to enquire about 'The Christian way,' but who gradually ceased to come. It would be unfair, however, not to record the continued goodwill which they bear toward us, and the chance they take when meeting us in the town to make this manifest, even to expressing their intention to come again. One has come lately with his rationalistic difficulties. Blida has been privileged to have residing in it, from time to time, Christian families of native origin who give invaluable witness to complete release from Islam, and freedom and joy in the service and testimony of their Saviour. Let us specially pray for the children of these families—the second and the third generations; that every effort made to help them may have God's fulfilment. It is good that in these days by means of Bible Camps and similar gatherings, these and others are being taught to be missionary minded."

Mlle. Buticaz, who has worked alone at Bou Saada writes: "More than ever I have experienced, in my loneliness, the presence of Jesus. Many of our Arab friends have been taken from us by the terrible illness, typhus. I think specially of Rouquia's mother who has I believe, entered the Glory of the Lord."

From Tlemcen a letter from Mrs. Stalley asks for special prayer for the young converts, that they may keep a right balance. She says: "Either they are lifted up on a great wave of optimism or else are down in the depths of despair when some big trial looms ahead. In your prayers, ask, that

they may meet each day and what it brings, in the strength of the Holy Spirit and not in their own. 'Andrew' is steadfast on the whole, but has his moments of 'seeing the waves boisterous,' and feeling that he will surely be engulfed. One can fully understand and sympathise, knowing the circumstances." Andrew himself wrote a letter to his friends (A.M.B.), and in it he says: "To you my brothers and sisters I would tell of my life and joy in Christ who has saved me from darkness and shown me, with you, the light in His beloved Way. Oh, brethren, I too, want to show forth that my life and being is in Him, as He is in me and in you. See Rom. 12. 1-5."

Writing of Miss Trotter's vision of a band of men workers, to meet the tremendous need of Moslem men and boys for Christ, as a hope yet largely unfulfilled; Mr. Stalley also noted that there were gaps in the ranks of workers; and that some Stations had had to close down. He writes: "It is not so much asking, 'What would'st Thou have me to do oh Lord?' (although that must never be left out), as 'What would'st Thou have us to do as a family, as a Mission, that the vision that Thou didst give shall be fully realised?' When the war clouds lift we shall see the horizons again. They will not differ greatly from those seen by our Foundress in earlier days, but there will be something more urgent in their appeal bidding us press on without delay if we are to attain them ere the day of opportunity is spent."

Coming to the last of these letters we rejoice that one of Miss Trotter's great longings is being fulfilled in the work among the students of Algiers. M. and Mme. Millon, who work together among them have each sent a message. M. Millon says: "The dark horizons of to-day need an absolute faith in the deliverances of the Lord. More than ever we have had to face the question of our spiritual life, and its value in our testimony as missionaries. Our little Sunday meetings, and many conversations that the Library has made possible, with friends, or with strangers of all creeds or even without any beliefs, have given us opportunities of spiritual work. . . . The work in the Library is heavy, and this

is a good sign. It is a happy thing that a Library of the kind which has been lacking in Algeria, should be established under Mission auspices. When developed, such a Library could be a potent means of evangelisation, and the focal point for other work among educated Moslems. We are constantly consulted by students about their studies, which, more often than one would think, concern religion. This opportunity of collaboration gives good openings for evangelistic work."

Mme. Millon writes: "The past year has been rich in lessons of all kinds, difficulties and blessings often following one another. The interviews have been many and varied. I have discovered that one must be *always ready* to give a reason for faith, to confess the Lord Jesus, or to bind up the broken in heart, for God often gives us quite unexpected opportunities. The sale of the Scriptures has been very encouraging. Since October 1941, we have sold eighty-seven Bibles, fifty-three New Testaments, twenty-two portions, and a great number of religious books. One thousand five hundred tracts have also been distributed. The students, whether Moslem or others, need your prayers and our witness. Will you think also of the little girl we have

adopted? She already loves the Lord Jesus."

On the Home side we have much to praise God for in this past year. Our friends in Great Britain and in America have continued their fellowship in the work, in spite of the scanty news that they have received. Our needs have been supplied and the way has been kept open for sending to the Field, and for this we are deeply grateful. At the end of this News Sheet you will find our Balance Sheet kindly prepared for us by Mr. Neville Russell, to whom, as Auditor, we offer our warm thanks.

With this number a leaflet is enclosed. It is a revised reprint of an article on Algeria, which may be of special interest at the present time. A copy passed on, might, with God's blessing, gain new prayer helpers and possibly new recruits, for the A.M.B. Extra copies may be had at 2d. each, or 1/6 a dozen.

You will, I am sure, realise that letters may be much delayed for the present, to and from Algeria.

May this New Year be one of much blessing for you all!

Your fellow worker,
MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

HOME OFFICE ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments for the year ended June 30th, 1942

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Cash at Bank and in Hand,		By Magazine and Book Account ...	30 2 7
1st July, 1941	531 18 1	Less Receipts	16 10 8
Cash on Deposit	4,824 0 0		13 11 11
	5,355 18 1	Stationery, Postages and General	
Subscriptions and Donations ...	561 14 5	Expenses	36 9 9
Legacy from the late Miss Cross		Remittances to Field	2,082 0 0
(additional)	22 5 0	Purchase of £1,934 10s. 3d.	
Royalties received	8 14 11	3 per cent Conversion Stock...	2,000 0 0
Dividends and Interest	113 15 11	Cash at Bank and in Hand,	
Income Tax Recovered (Two		30th June, 1942	101 11 2
Years)	45 4 6	Cash on Deposit	1,874 0 0
	£6,107 12 10		1,975 11 2
			£6,107 12 10

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.
	1,050	Conversion 5 per cent 1944-64.
	2,000	Conversion 3 per cent 1948-53.

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.
4th August, 1942.

C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.
(Incorporated Accountant).