



NEWS SHEET
REPLACING PRO TEM.

A THIRSTY LAND

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**" Looking off unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter
of our Faith."—Heb. 12. 2.**

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

May we be kept, in these testing days, looking off unto Him Who alone can keep our faith steadfast !

As we pray for our Forces in their tremendous enterprise, we remember those in France for whom dawn is surely breaking, though the horizon is dark with the clouds of war. Let us specially remember those among them who are friends of the A.M.B. and are our brothers and sisters in Christ, asking that their faith may be strengthened to meet the ordeal of these days and that their deliverance may by God's mercy, come speedily.

News from our missionaries (being civilians) can no longer be sent by air, and will probably be long in coming. However, we are thankful for the close touch we have had for some time, and hope for its renewal in the near future.

Miss Perkin writes that God has sent the gift of a little son—" Paul"—to Sergeant Lakdar and his wife (Fifine), for whom many have prayed. We shall rejoice with them I know, and pray that this little child of a Christian marriage may live to become a true witness to Christ, and a joy and blessing to his parents. His father, who is serving in the French Army in Morocco, and his mother who continues to

give valuable house-help at Dar Naama, need our prayers that they may be kept and strengthened by the Power of God, and grow in the knowledge of their Lord and Saviour.

Miss Perkin gives news of Mlle Buticaz, who had been up in Algiers and had later gone from there to Tolga to help Mme Lull while her husband was away doing colportage. Mlle B. travelled from Bou Saada to Algiers in a lorry, taking from eight o'clock one morning till three o'clock the next. They had then to park in a side street and sleep in the lorry, the weather being very cold! On the way back to Bou Saada they had five breakdowns and then a smash up, in the night. Mlle B. was able, it seems, to put on the brake and so to avert disaster, which earned her the deep gratitude of the other passengers. She finally arrived at Bou Saada, after this night in the desert, on the next afternoon, on foot. God's mercy was indeed around His child bringing her safely through, but travelling presents a serious problem for our friends in Algeria.

Miss Nash, who has had a very strenuous time in Algiers, and whose work there among Arab women and children is at a standstill owing to war conditions, has gone to Touggourt in the desert of Eastern Algeria. She is very tired at present, but such a faithful messenger will doubtless find many opportunities for making Christ known in this large Moslem centre which is without a missionary.

Work goes on among men of the Forces at Dar Naama and at Blida, though we have no special news about it to give, this time.

Monsieur and Mme Lull and their little girls, will be at our Station at Setif for the summer when the heat at Tolga is great. Food has been very difficult to obtain there, and in addition locusts devoured everything in the Lulls' promising kitchen garden, as well as the date palm flowers. M. Lull has done another colportage tour. We give his daily notes (translated) in their simple graphic form.

" My colportage tour started on Saturday, February 19th, with a visit to Nezla, a large suburb of Touggourt. On leaving my room, God gave me this promise: ' I am with thee . . . in all places whither thou goest.' From the first I found people very anxious to buy books, even though they knew that they were Gospels. When I left Nezla I visited two other villages; the sales were good and I had two profitable times of reading and conversation with the men there.

" Sunday, February 20th: I met some Jews who invited me to come into their shop to talk about religion. I had a blessed moment in speaking to them of Jesus, the Messiah for whom they are waiting. Many bought the New Testament in French, and asked me to bring them some Bibles. Their greatest wish at the moment is to return to the Holy Land. They are very grateful to the Allies who have opened up the road to Palestine once more. Many families from the South have already set forth and others will follow.

" Monday, February 21st: I visited six villages on the Djama road. Everywhere I had a welcome and book sales were good. I placed 100 Gospels, all that I could get into my bag. I could not visit a seventh village for I had no books. I met many men who had been at Tolga during these past years, and one of them bought five Gospels for himself and his friends. I also met a station-master who invited me to have coffee with him, which I much appreciated at the end of a tiring day.

" Tuesday, February 22nd: To-day I visited four villages on the Ouargla road. The work was rather difficult specially in the Zaouia of T. One of the marabouts there accepted a copy of ' the Sevenfold Secret ' in Arabic, but most of the Gospels I sold them, were handed back to me. At B. el Amor, the spirit was much better, and the work more encouraging. I was able to read and speak with a group of men and I sold almost my whole sack of books. God triumphs always.

“ Wednesday, February 23rd : Work in Touggourt itself. I started in the Jewish quarter. The most interesting incident was the meeting with a man who bought the New Testament. ‘ I believe,’ he said, ‘ that Jesus is the sent One of God the Messiah. Give me the book of Jesus Christ, I believe in Him.’ I visited all the shops and the market. Kabyles bought books in French with great eagerness.

“ Thursday, February 24th : This year again to my regret I had to give up the idea of going to Taibet el Guiblia, thirty miles to the East of Touggourt in the dunes. I should have needed a camel and a guide and the journey would have been very costly. Towards ten o'clock I started for Ouargla by a vehicle of the Soc. Saharienne. There are more facilities for travel in that direction and more possibilities of work. A violent sand-storm lasted all day and sometimes the track was invisible.

“ Friday, February 25th : The day was a blessed one. In the morning I went by cycle to five villages on the outskirts of Ouargla. Everywhere people were glad to buy Gospels. A group of men we met on the road bought fifteen, and further on another group bought many. In the afternoon I visited the shops in the town. In a Jewish shop I had a conversation with a man. He said : ‘ Please God next year we shall be in Jerusalem, and no longer in a strange land.’ He said this with deep fervour and tears rolled down his cheeks. I spoke to him of Jesus, but he could not agree that He was the Messiah. Another man bought ‘ The Sevenfold Secret,’ in Arabic, with very great pleasure. Praise God I sold that day more than 150 Gospels.

“ Saturday, February 26th : I visited N'Goussa, a village in the sand, twenty miles from Ouargla, which we had not been able to go to during our tour in 1939. It was a difficult day, I had to push my cycle for over thirteen miles ! I was rewarded by an encouraging time on the road, and specially in the village where my bag of books was almost emptied. I had set off early in the morning and I got back to Ouargla at about eight o'clock in the evening, at the end of my strength, but happy to

have visited this village to which we had never been before.

“ Monday, February 28th : Set out in the morning for Touggourt in a lorry in a dreadful sand-storm, with a convoy of prisoners. At Touggourt I found letters waiting for me together with a parcel containing three Bibles. I went into the Jewish quarter and there I found two men each of whom bought one. At nine o'clock in the evening I left Touggourt for Djama by train. At Djama there was no room in the hotel, so I spent the rest of the night at the station.

“ Tuesday, March 1st : The day was a full one as I visited seven villages in the neighbourhood, and sold a hundred Gospels. They warned me that there would be no room at the station that night, and I decided to start at eleven p.m. for Biskra.

“ It was a great joy once more to visit all those villages, twenty-nine in all. I sold altogether 1,103 Gospels and booklets, and God fulfilled day after day the promise that He gave me at the start, ‘ I will be with thee . . . in all places whither thou goest.’ ”

Miss Grautoff asks our prayers for Buchta a young Christian woman in Miliana, whose husband has deserted her and her two children. She may be in want and temptation, though a French Protestant friend is doing what she can to help her. Blind Yamina and her husband, who are together now in M., both need continued prayer. A Jewish girl of sixteen has written to Miss Grautoff, asking for an English Bible, which has been sent to her. She has been reading philosophy ; Voltaire, Rousseau and others. But she says, “ I think I do believe in God.” Miss G. asks our prayers for this girl and that the letter may be blessed to her in which she has sought to lead her to Christ.

Miss Russell writes : “ With regard to the believers in Miliana, we can praise God that a loving Christian friend, Mme D. has taken them upon her heart and is visiting them. Will you pray especially for the children of these converts who are not receiving any Bible teaching in their own language at the present time, unless their mothers are

trying to teach them." With regard to deputation work Miss Russell says, "Since the beginning of this year I have had several welcome opportunities of meeting friends of the Mission. In February, I paid a visit to Redcliffe College. It was inspiring to find a roomful of young women eager to learn more of the problems connected with the evangelization of Moslems. In March a prayer group at Woking warmed my heart with their zeal. Two meetings were taken at Bury St. Edmunds, more especially to tell of the work in the M'zab region of the Algerian Sahara, work which has been in abeyance since the Spring of 1940, owing to the political situation. It was possible to visit Bexhill and Brighton in May, through the kind invitation of the Rev. P. D. Harding. Local meetings have included several in my own home parish, and one visit to the Forest Hill branch of the London City Mission. On June 3rd, it was a joy to meet face to face, members of the Officers' Christian Union. For the past fifteen years I have been able to count upon their prayer backing. I should value prayer that the way may open for me to return to the Field in September, if the Lord will"

Mr. Harold Stalley has continued his deputation work also, and gives us the following account. "Since the last *Thirsty Land* appeared, I have had the privilege of addressing quite a number of meetings in England and Scotland. I had the pleasure of renewing the acquaintance of old friends of the A.M.B. here and there, but in many places visited the work of our Band was unknown. It was striking however to find that even in circles where the A.M.B. has come as something new, the name of Miss Trotter was known and honoured, for there one found hearts that have been blessed and inspired by messages from her pen and brush. "She being dead yet speaketh." This, one found to be true in more than one sense, for not only have lovers of the works of Miss Trotter been eager to hear of the work she left to others to carry on, but wherever we have been privileged to go there has been quite a demand for her life-story and writings.

Many are the testimonies to blessing received through the reading of her books to-day. Those messages come with living power into the lives and circumstances of God's children at this present time. We trust that the testimony given to God's goodness and power manifested towards us on the Mission Field during the critical years that have passed, combined with the words that Miss Trotter spoke and wrote, will mean lasting blessing and will encourage the faith of all concerned. For my part I have been very cheered by the evident interest shown, in young people's meetings particularly. Invitations to Inter-Varsity Fellowship, Christian Endeavour, Nurses Christian Fellowship, Crusader and such like gatherings have been most gladly accepted. The A.M.B. has had long and happy contacts with the Faith Mission, and it was good to feel once again the warmth of their welcome and prayerful interest, in Prayer Unions and Conferences as I moved about Scotland. We were greatly blessed too, by the staunch and loyal help and service of different friends who years ago were co-workers on the Field, but who now for various reasons are serving at home. If the heritage of the past years of labour and sacrifice is to be preserved, and also the promise of the present and future to be realised, we need many such co-workers. May the Lord thrust forth into His harvest numbers of these young lives, who have been hearing a call coming from the part of the Field that He has entrusted to us."

Once more we praise God for His good Hand upon our workers, and pray for His blessing on the spoken and written word. May He guide us step by step as we go forward!

Your fellow worker,

MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

(Hon. Sec.)

P.S.—May I ask if those who kindly write sending gifts, orders for literature, etc., will in future direct their letters to THE SECRETARY, unless they are writing me a personal letter. This will be a help in the office.—M. H. R.