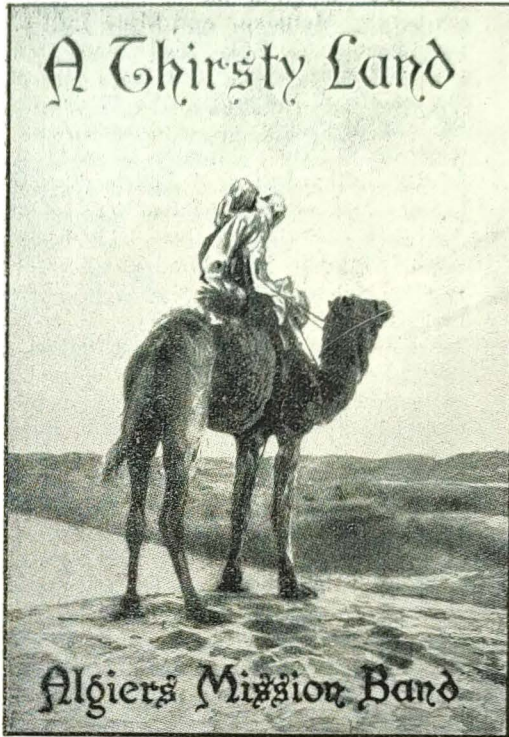


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# A THIRSTY LAND

The Quarterly Magazine  
of the  
ALGIERS MISSION BAND

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"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all. . . . Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name."—1 Chron. 29. 11 and 13.

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

In our Summer *News Sheet* we remembered our friends in France for whom it seemed that dawn was surely breaking. Now, thank God, in these last days of August, the prayers of the last years have indeed been answered. The sound of the rejoicing of a freed nation is ringing in our ears, and day is once more appearing in France after the long night of darkness and oppression. To our French and Algerian friends we send our warmest congratulations and most heartfelt wishes for God's blessing in the time to come.

The Autumn issue of *A Thirsty Land* was, before the war, our Report Number, and though no regular reports are to hand, news of all our workers on the Field will be found in this *News Sheet*.

From **Dar Naama**, **Miss Perkin** writes that the Canteen continues to be much appreciated, but owing to the moving on of the troops the numbers are much less than they were. French and native soldiers are among those who use the Canteen at Headquarters, and **Miss Perkin** and **Miss Farmer** have had the help of Mlle Buttica during the summer months.

Little Paul, child of Christian parents is growing well, and is a very happy baby. His mother, F., who is house helper at Dar Naama, is anxious about her husband, Sergt. Lakdar, who is now serving in France. **Monsieur Nicoud** reports very encouraging evangelistic meetings at the French Y.M.C.A. where addresses are given both in French and English. He visits French wounded soldiers in hospital, and there are also many native wounded who give him a warm welcome.

In **Algiers, M. and Mme Millon** find many opportunities, through their bookshop, of contact with souls. The work among the students is mainly in abeyance owing to the war.

In the last magazine, we mentioned that **Miss Nash**, who has been working for years in a suburb of **Algiers**, hoped to go later on to take up work in **Touggourt** in eastern Algeria. She has since written to us: "I am most thankful to say I was able to continue visiting and classes (amongst the Arabs) almost as usual throughout the difficult period, and these were only discontinued in the Autumn of 1942 when our premises were required for Civil Defence. Later they were needed for refugees, since which date I have found plenty to do for the troops, visiting in hospitals and canteens, and in receiving all and sundry at the house here. I have had many interesting contacts and I hope profitable talks, and with some I have had real Christian fellowship: it has all been well worth while. Nevertheless I longed to visit the desert again, when quite unexpectedly the opportunity presented itself of going to Touggourt. We had a very warm welcome from all our friends European and native alike; the latter have not changed but are still the same dear simple kindly folk they always were. Here in Algiers the spirit is so very different now, owing to war conditions. The Bach Agha gave us a great reception, and was very pleased to hear of our intention to return in the autumn. There is, I am sure, a splendid work to be done. As you may remember, I have already in the past had some most encouraging times there." Miss Nash intended going south in September.

From **Setif** comes the news of a little son born to **Monsieur and Mme Lull**—Jean Raymond. May God bless this second Raymond Lull, and make him a like messenger of Christ to the Moslems! M. Lull has been doing colportage around Setif very actively, has been as far afield as M'sila, and has had good sales of Gospel literature, as well as holding classes in Setif itself for boys and others. The Lulls would doubtless be returning to their desert station of **Tolga** as soon as the great heat was over.

From **Blida (Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham)**, letters have come telling of souls coming out into the Light, from among members of the Forces visiting the Mission Station. Mr. B. also writes that a great evangelistic movement has started in the Camp itself, and that letters continually arrive from the "new-born souls, now gone elsewhere."

**Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell**, now in England, have heard from **Miliana** that prayer is being answered for the two couples mentioned in our last number, but they need continued prayer that God's work may be accomplished in their hearts and lives.

At **Mostaganem, Mile Gayral** is finding that the war atmosphere is making it very difficult to approach those not already friendly, with the Gospel. This is true of other places too, and prayer is needed.

**Mr. and Mrs. Stalley** have had news from **Miss Wood**, who is bravely holding on alone at **Tlemcen**. She tells of "Andrew," the young Christian Arab often prayed for. He was going on as usual at his work. His wife has again visited Miss Wood, who has returned her visit, and says she is beginning to get more friendly and less shy. Mrs. Stalley writes: "So we can pray that this friendliness may increase, and that through it Miss Wood may have many opportunities of teaching this young wife." In a letter Miss Wood says, "I have had one or two visits from the young man, G., lately. Last time he asked me to find him a book which would help him to understand the Bible better. So I have been hunting up all the French books which seem at all likely to meet his need." Mrs

Stalley says : " We are specially glad to have this bit of news. G. is an intelligent, well-educated young man in Government service, who has for several years been a "seeker," but has never really crossed the border line of decision. He was one of the faithful few who did not desert us at the Mission House during the time of the Vichy regime, when public opinion was so much against us. Pray that Heavenly Light may flood his heart and clear away all that hinders him from becoming a definite Christian."

**Mlle Buttica**'s adventurous journey from Tolga to **Bou Saada**, was mentioned in our last *A Thirsty Land*. Now we have a letter from Mlle B. which gives a very interesting account of this and other matters. She writes : " On my journey to Tolga from Bou Saada, I slept a night at Ouled Jellal, and had the next morning there at my disposal. I started for the town with a few tracts. It was six years since our last visit. Groups of boys followed me about, and I was obliged to sit down on the Mosque steps and speak from there to a group of men and boys. Then I was invited into several shops where men listened keenly, and questioned with courtesy and understanding. The clock striking stopped me as I was far from the hotel. Two men and several boys ran along beside me, the latter trying to learn, " There is a City bright," and a chorus! A short journey through fine sand, lovely mirages on the horizon, and then the sight of the friendly door of our Tolga mission house where I spent five happy weeks. During my visit M. Lull was able to go to Ouled Jellal, with a sufficient stock of books for a week's visit. He sold these in three days. My return journey to Bou Saada was more eventful than the first. At 11.30 p.m. we ran into a big rock on the roadside, which broke the dynamo and the brakes. We landed in a river bed, and were glad to find ourselves unhurt. Two plucky young fellows started off on a fifteen-mile walk to get help, while we tried to rest around brush-wood fires. It was interesting to listen to the talk of a marabout (holy man) with a neighbour.

" Yes, he is a European. He was selling books in our hamlet amidst the palm trees.

Some said they were 'harram' (blasphemous). Others bought and said that they were, as the seller had declared, " The Word of God."

" And thou ? " asked the marabout.

I said to him, " What is the good of these words ? "

He answered me, " Don't you want a clean heart and to go to heaven ? "

" Yes," I replied.

" Then," he added, " read this book, and you will find that the Lord Jesus can give it to you, and your life will be changed."

There was silence, and then the marabout asked :

" Did you buy the book ? Let me see it. What is the name of the Frenchman ? "

" People call him Si Habeeb."

(Name given by Arabs' to M. Lull, it means " friend "—ED.)

" I wish I had met him," said the merchant.

Next morning as no help had come to us, I had to walk over fourteen miles to Bou Saada. I had no provisions, but obtained refreshment on the way, from a little goat-herd who milked a goat into my thermos. After I was back again at Bou Saada, the two men, the marabout and the merchant, knocked at the Mission House door, asking :

" Have you a New Testament (Arabic) to sell ? "

They went away in possession of a copy, rejoicing ! "

Miss Phyllis Russell (Miliana) asks for continued prayer that the door may be reopened for her return to the Field this autumn. The following extract from an address given by Miss Russell will be of interest. We are reprinting it by courtesy of the Officers' Christian Union.

" One very encouraging feature of this particularly trying time (Summer, 1941) was the staunch friendship of the pastors of the French Protestant Church. From the outset they came forward in a body to identify themselves with us, British missionaries, and our work for the Kingdom of God. They pledged themselves to be responsible to the Government for our activities.

Another body of people supported us loyally during those difficult months. They were the Jewish shopkeepers of the town, whose faith in the ultimate triumph of the Allied Nations never wavered. Though they themselves were suffering increasing persecution under the Vichy regime, they firmly believed that one day the tide would turn. Time and again they helped us in material ways and were always eager to pass on any good news. Will you remember these Jews of North Africa in your prayers and ask that we missionaries may never miss an opportunity of passing on to them the good news of their Saviour's love."

God has graciously supplied our financial needs during this past year. Letters full of lovingkindness continue to come from America—from Mrs. Foster Bryner (President), and Mrs. Goodrich (Treasurer), of the Algerian Mission Band, from Miss Edith May, Mrs. Hulse (Des Moines), and from other friends in the U.S.A. and in Canada. We have marvelled at the way the gifts have come in from those in Britain and Northern Ireland during these most difficult and trying days—often with a little bit extra added! Our Lord is not unmindful. We received with gratitude news of a gift left for the A.M.B. by our dear Mrs. Walker, for so long secretary of the Algerian Mission Band (U.S.A.). This was further increased by her son Mr. Robert Walker in memory of his mother, and as a token of regard for the A.M.B., and we have sent him our sympathy and grateful thanks.

Mr. Neville Russell has most kindly audited our accounts once more, and we offer him our warm thanks. The statement for the year (June, 1943–June 1944) is in this office, and can be seen by anyone who so desires.

It is hoped to hold an  
**A. M. B. RALLY**  
in LONDON in NOVEMBER  
*Particulars later*

In this semi report-number an announcement must be made about the Home side of the A.M.B. I have been regretfully feeling, for some time, that the secretarial and treasurer work was more than I could continue to do, satisfactorily. God has, however, wonderfully provided for us, in the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Stalley are at present detained in England. Mrs. Stalley is greatly needed by her elderly parents who are in very frail health. The ban on leaving this country is still in force, and it seems that in the combination of these circumstances, together with the need at Home, God's will is indicated. Mr. Harold Stalley has spent the greater part of the year since his return home in deputation work at the desire of the Home Council and the Field Committee. Now at their wish he will assume the work of secretary-treasurer, while he is detained at Home. Mr. Stalley has intimate knowledge of the Field, and also having visited a good many centres during his deputation work in recent months, seems just the one needed to take on the Home end of A.M.B. affairs, *pro tem*.

I am very sorry to lay it down, for it has been most happy work, and I have made so many friends through A.M.B. correspondence. I hope that such linking will continue, and this will be the more possible, as I have very gladly undertaken to continue editing *A Thirsty Land*.

You will, I know, pray for our Secretary as he takes up his new work, that he may be directed in all things by the Holy Spirit, and that the A.M.B. may be guided and blessed, and advance step by step in the path of God's will, both on the Field and at Home.

Your fellow worker,  
MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

Mr. Stalley will, from now on, deal with all A.M.B. correspondence and business. Please send letters to:

The Rev. H. STALLEY,  
Campfield,  
Great Barton,  
BURY ST. EDMUNDS, Suffolk.