

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

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The Quarterly Magazine of the Algiers Mission Band

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" O Lord, Thou art my God ; I will exalt Thee ; I will praise Thy Name ; for Thou hast done wonderful things."

" And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God ; we have waited for Him and He will save us ; this is the Lord ; we have waited for Him, we will rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

Isaiah 25. 1, 9.

Home Secretary's New Year Message

This issue goes out at the opening of another year. Some of us may be wondering what is laid up for us within the dimness of the future. For many, if not for most of those outside of Christ, there is a chilly pessimism about the clouds that darken the horizon and a sense of foreboding. To the servants of the King however, the shadows are gleaming with the approaching glory of His return. We are drawing nearer to the Triumph, the issue of an age-long conflict.

While so many can see no form nor plan for the future of their lives and can trace nothing in the past that can help them, *faith* can find its bearings and while it does not plot its future course alone, it waits for each command and to it is given an awareness of the direction in which it is being led. Something of the part it is to play in the final unrolling of the Divine Plan for the end of the age is made clear.

As a Mission we can look back over the past twelve months and check up on our

course. God has continued His chastening discipline in a number of ways. There has been a further cutting down of our ranks by the departure of two French colleagues, leaving eleven active members on the Field and four serving temporarily at home. Of the fourteen stations and outposts we held in 1939, six only could be maintained (including headquarters) in full or part-time occupation. When writing for the January number of the magazine last year, no reinforcements had yet appeared, nor had any offered. It was, however, in that issue of *A Thirsty Land* that a challenge to faith and to prayer was thrown down. We want to remind you of it again today.

"The world of Islam, of which North Africa is an important part, is coming into the picture of today very forcibly, and the Church of Christ cannot ignore it as it has hitherto done. It is a fact that many of God's people in the past have seen in Moslem lands a fruitless and unprofitable field of service, and therefore their spiritual in-

vestments, prayer, service and sacrifice, have not been attracted in that direction. It is true that Scripture represents our earthly sphere of service as a harvest field or vineyard, but it also shows us very clearly that it is a spiritual battlefield with all its attendant struggle, hardship, setbacks and casualties, its needed discipline, organization, vision, faith and endurance. Victory may never be in sight until the end of the campaign. Neither parable can picture exclusively any single part of the Church's sphere of action, but some present one aspect far more than do others, and for the Church to neglect or ignore the sterner challenge of the battlefield is to do so at her peril.

This aspect is very much before us in North Africa and here and now we want to renew the call to young Christian men and women who helped to bring about the triumph of the "forlorn hopes" of 1940, to engage in yet another struggle. We cannot offer you a fruitful, responsive field of service, God willing that will come ultimately, but a sphere which will tax your faith, love and devotion to Christ to the utmost, to a land where Islam stands defiantly upon the grave of a once great Christian Church, where the very foundation truths of your faith are regarded as blasphemy. If there is any question about the reasonableness of such a course, the words of an old warrior of the Lord, C. T. Studd, give an irrefutable answer: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to make for Him." Remember "He must reign" and He *shall* reign, but just when and how soon may well depend upon how we respond to His call to take up the most forbidding of tasks. There will be triumphs, for there are trophies to-day of the Cross of Christ, who, to follow Him have gone through the fire of affliction and persecution, and have known from the day they first came to Christ that their lives are a battle ground, as well as a garden for the fruits of the Spirit.

May we appeal to all of you, those who will go and those who cannot, to "consider Him, who endured the Cross, despised the shame, and is set down at the right Hand of the Throne of God . . . Henceforth expect-

ing. . . ." Is there any sacrifice too great that we can make for Him? Let our living, praying and giving shout out the answer! Begin by praying-in with us during this coming year the recruits we need to re-occupy the vacant and half-manned mission centres on the Field. *We shall need at least twenty for that.* Pray with us too, that God will bring to us some lives with a real Call and vision of His purposes to strengthen the work of our Home base.

We believe that God has brought us in a marvellous way through severe trials and testings, not in order to liquidate His work entrusted to us, or merely to let it fade out, but that He might use it and us again, only now more fully, as an experienced, tested and tempered instrument in His Hand. Will you say "Amen" to that? So let it be." I make no apology for reiterating this challenge. The vision needs to be kept before our eyes. Twenty new missionaries was the number we felt we could absorb into our ranks within three years, and it was most heartening while on deputation work recently to hear of friends who had from the very first day taken up the challenge to pray. What a joy it was too, to tell them how God was answering their prayers. At the time of writing this, *ten* young people have declared that they have heard the Call to the Field in North Africa and that they are willing to go. Five of them are from the Continent, either Swiss or French, the other five belong to the United Kingdom. We praise God for them all! The first to arrive on the Field are the two devoted French doctors referred to in Miss Perkin's report. We trust that by the time this reaches you Mlle. Chollet of Switzerland will be installed at Bou Saada with Mlle Butticaz. Miss Edith Clark may be the next to follow. This worker is no newcomer to the country, as a few years back she spent a period of five years with Miss Kathleen Butler as her personal helper at Tlemcen. Freed from home ties at last, she is eager to be in the front line as a full partner in the work. Mr. Frank Baggott, the first to be accepted, early in the year, is completing his training in Paris, and God willing, it will not be many months before he is on the Field, already well equipped in the know-

ledge of French and with the beginnings of Arabic.

Others are at different stages of their preliminary training in this country or abroad. Pray for them all that God's Hand may be upon them in these days, fitting and preparing them for the task that lies ahead. Pray on that *at least the twenty* may be at their posts before another two years have gone by.

Then there is the Literature Crusade of which we have spoken in two previous numbers. We are glad to record that Miss Grautoff has now arrived safely at Headquarters. As President of the Field Literature Committee, she has been devoting much of her time since arriving in getting forward the production of new Gospel literature in French and Arabic.

Here is another great challenge to our faith. We praise God for the funds that have been coming in for literature production, and a very vital work it is. Our friends on the Field however, are up against great difficulties with regard to supplies of paper, for practically all our material so far has been printed in North Africa. Another difficulty is the lack of skilled workmen. We have no printing press of our own (although that may well be part of God's plan one day), so please pray us through these problems.

Beyond that also in the unfolding of the plan to meet the challenge of the day, we think of the *distribution* of the written Word. Before the war a light van was serving as a mobile book-shop, but this had to be relinquished in the general call-up at the outbreak of war. Its lack is felt very acutely now that travelling facilities are so inadequate and, where available, very expensive and over-crowded.

Our friends of the Christian Literature Crusade have been experimenting in the construction of a mobile unit that combines the properties of book-shop and travelling mission-station, with accommodation for three or four workers. In many ways the model we have seen and discussed with them seems to be the answer to the need for spreading the printed witness over a wide area.

When the experimental stage is passed, the cost of such a "mobile mission-station"

is hardly likely to be much under £1,000. But what an investment! And what a ministry could be carried on from it as it would move from place to place throughout the country, carrying workers with their quarters, equipment and stores of printed matter, without the limitations attending the usual modes of travel. Lift this up to the Lord in prayer that we may have His Mind upon the project.

Dear friends, the Pillar of Cloud and Fire is on the move.

For five years, from 1940 onwards, our watchword was "Fear not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord!" (Exodus xiv. 13). To-day the watchword is found in the fifteenth verse of the chapter: "Wherefore criest thou unto Me? speak unto the Children of Israel, that they go forward" . . . "I will get Me honour upon Pharaoh and upon all his host." When Faith obeyed that command first given to Moses it could be said of it that it set out, not only on an uncharted pathway, perilous and impossible to the human mind, but also upon an experience without precedent or parallel in the annals of Faith. Throughout the ages since, many a "Red Sea" has been crossed and many a triumph-psalm has been raised upon its farther shore. They cheer us on as we too receive a like command "Go forward," and what a heartening word that is which follows: "I will get ME honour. . . ."

H. W. STALLEY.

Field Secretary's Report 1939—1946

ANNUAL MEETING 1946

It warms my heart to see again so many friends after the eventful years through which we have passed, including some who, for one reason or other, had to venture to come to England two years or so ago, and have found that the road was a one-way road. Now that there are improved traffic arrangements, I hope we shall soon see some of them out in Algeria again. Warned by their fate I dared not venture until a

way back was assured and until Miss Wood could be extricated from Tlemcen to replace me. We have enjoyed having her with us again after about six years, and I can assure you she appears not to be at all the worse for wear. The sad thing is that she, being at Dar Naama, leaves the Tlemcen flock unshepherded.

We have also been glad to have Miss Nash with us for the summer. It is a long time since we have seen much of her, for although before she went to Touggourt we did not live far apart, we were fully occupied at El Biar and she even more so, with Mlle Ruperto (of the R.S.P.C.A.), dealing with casualties in the heavily bombed quarter of Belcourt, visiting our soldiers in hospital and receiving them in her home. Now that she has been with us we can realise much better than we did, her strenuous life and work at Touggourt among the dusky women and children.

You may want me to tell you what was the attitude of the Moslems up to the time I left. You know that there is a strong Nationalist Pan-Islam movement which got out of hand in the Constantine region and especially at Setif on and after May 8th, 1945. Mme Lull's father, being in the street that day, received severe head wounds. The Commandant at Biskra, being forewarned, called out the Spahis and the whole district from Tolga to Touggourt was kept in hand. An Arab said to M. Lull, "Have no fear, you are quite safe with us. You are like our Father and Mother, you love us."

M. Lull was not allowed to do colportage from Setif as usual that summer, but he began again this year. He sold much less than in previous years, partly because he was not so well stocked as usual, but he also sensed a distinctly hostile atmosphere though nothing definite was said or done. The Moslems are insisting that Arabic be the official language alongside of French, and are opening a number of schools both for boys and girls. The result is that there is such a demand for Arabic literature that they are ready even to buy Christian books. Many have plenty of money to spend and prefer books to tracts, and they and the Jews willingly pay for high-priced Bibles,

also books such as the *Life of General Feng*. A Mozabite paid me ten francs more than I asked him for a translation of Ballantyne's *Coral Island*. I have not heard of active opposition to missionaries, but I was told that when a Kabyle woman for some good reason escaped from her husband and was taken by the police to a mission home, local nationalists complained that the missionaries were encouraging the women to rebel against their husbands.

It occurs to me that perhaps few people realise how M. and Mme Pierre Nicoud have been employed these last years. They had the management of the French Y.M.C.A. Canteen in rue Michelet, Algiers, almost the first to be opened. French and native troops crowded into it and it was very popular with the British. There were evening prayers every night and at one time there were Sunday evangelical meetings in French and English. These were well attended and great numbers of Scriptures were sold and distributed to the men. The management of the canteen was a very exacting job. In addition to this our friends constantly had soldiers, chiefly British, at their table, and a bed was always at the disposal of those who needed it.

My mother's favourite Bible passage was Psalm 103, verses 1-5; she quoted it on all occasions. Looking back over the past seven years I feel that it expresses our experience.

When France capitulated there were rumours that English missionaries might be interned and we began to consider what things would be most indispensable to pack into a suitcase should we be led away. Then God put it into the heart of the French pastors to stand guarantee for us to the French Government. The late M. Caron especially took immense trouble to impress responsible authorities favourably on our behalf, and to intervene where over-zealous Vichy officials were acting oppressively.

Other evidences of our Heavenly Father's loving-kindness were the gifts that were showered upon us. One day five large lorry loads of surplus hospital material arrived at our gate, including folding chairs of many kinds, folding tables, kitchen and

medical utensils and so on. There were also medical instruments, hospital garments and hand-work material, the value of which was enhanced by the goodwill, labour and thought involved in collecting, loading and delivering these goods which abundantly supplied our needs and the needs of our missionary friends.

As if this were not enough, some time after, all the furnishing of a Maison Carré Camp church was brought to us by the R.A.F. padre, and some of his congregation, when transport was extremely difficult to obtain. The weather was very hot and the padre and his team were streaming with perspiration. You should have seen them struggling down the garden steps with a piano and a large harmonium, without stretchers or rollers. These are two or three outstanding benefits from an uncountable number.

I have been noticing lately how God sometimes prepares the supply for a special need in advance of prayer. Here is a case in point. A young French doctor, though brought up in Roman Catholicism, was quite godless until one day he saw on an old-clothes stall a shabby Bible. He bought it and the reading of it led to his conversion. About that time he came in contact with a Christian who helped and instructed him. He married a girl like-minded with himself, also a doctor. They both desired, while working at their profession, to devote themselves to God's service. Mme Lull had for some time been finding the medical work more than she could cope with and had felt the need of a missionary mid-wife. She made her wants known to French and Swiss Christian circles she was in touch with. Under existing circumstances the outlook was discouraging and there was no response. However, among those who were interested was M. Rene Pache, and he mentioned the matter to the young doctors. The result was that they both felt called to get government permission to practise at Tolga so as to be able to help the Mission as far as possible. The name of this couple is Mouthon. That was more than a year ago and in the meantime Mme Mouthon has qualified in mid-wifery. To make a long story short,

M. and Mme Mouthon and their two-year-old boy came to Algiers in August with their old car and went straight to Setif by road. They should now be at Tolga staying at the little Rassouta Hotel until a house, which has been provided for them, becomes available. Mme Mouthon will devote herself to the treatment of women and children and especially to midwifery. Dr. Mouthon is a fearless, go-ahead young man, having been in the French Resistance movement and both he and his wife are cheerfully prepared to endure possible hardship and privations. So you see that almost as soon as the way from France was open, there were two missionary-minded doctors, one also being a midwife, ready to go to co-operate at Tolga.

M. Lull has long expressed a desire for a car to facilitate and extend his work in the large area in which their station is situated. He has, by means of his bicycle and public transport, visited all the surrounding oases yearly and made colportage tours further afield. These journeyings, carrying heavy loads of books, are very exhausting and he feels the strain of such work. But the possibility of obtaining a car became more and more remote. Even those who have cars have great difficulty in getting tyres which are costly, and being of synthetic rubber, of poor quality and unreliable. This summer, when M. Lull went to visit his family and his aged father who is paralysed, his brothers proposed to M. Lull to arrange to make over their father's car to him. It had been garaged for over six years, but with some overhauling could be put into running order. So he has a fine, large car, with good pre-war tyres, and a spare. He proposed taking all the family, seven, including a little Kabyle maid and the luggage, from Setif to Tolga. He cannot drive yet and will have to get his certificate at Biskra, but Dr. Mouthon's chauffeur was to take the car down to Tolga. Isn't this another case of needs being provided for in advance? It is surely an encouragement to face the future undaunted by seeming impossibilities, confident that our Father has a provision for every need if and when we prove ourselves worthy.

S. E. PERKIN.

“Journeyings”

Miss Trotter often spoke of those returning to Algeria from the Homeland as “swallows” coming back again. These intrepid swallows need our prayers as they launch forth on wings! We realise this as we read Miss Grautoff’s letter.

“After nine days *en route* and many changes of hotel, train, aerodrome, I am very thankful to find myself in Algiers.” In Paris, instead of a change of plane, there were days and nights of delay. At last the passengers, who had expected to go by plane were sent by rail to Marseilles.

“I found myself in a party of nineteen, French, Arabs, Italians and others—but I was the only English traveller amongst them.” During her Paris days Miss Grautoff was able to visit Mr. Warren, and also to see Mr. Baggott, who met her plane, kindly waiting many hours. In Marseilles, there was again uncertainty and a delay of two nights and then, at last, “We were hurried into a plane; twenty-two grown-ups, and four children, very cramped for room, some sitting on luggage.” But this time they were really off, and Miss Grautoff rejoiced to find herself once more at Dar Naama. She writes from there, “Here all seem well, though there is no butter or milk, little sugar or coffee, no tea, and very little soap. Meat is not rationed but is costly, and the bread is very dark in colour.

Mlle Butticaiz is waiting for her Swiss helper. Miss Nash is away restarting work in Touggourt. Miss Russell is very busy with the accounts (in Mr. Buckenham’s absence), as well as other things. I am going to occupy myself with the different tracts—some ready to print, and I shall get estimates for all I can. It is good to be here!”

Visiting Around Tlemcen

In a tiny hamlet not far from Tlemcen I went to visit an Arab friend and found the large court of the house she lives in full of furniture, bedding, mirrors and other household goods, as well as a number of people, men, women and children who seemed to be vying with one another as to who could

talk or scream the loudest. When I arrived in K’s room, where she was concealing herself from the menfolk, she told me what it was all about.

One of the men living in the court had two wives and a mother. That the mother and daughters-in-law did not always agree was considered natural and inevitable; but when the husband quarrelled with his wives and *they* with one another, and *he* came home drunk and beat them, and *they* refused to eat or drink till he gave them their own way, things seemed bad indeed! Each wife insisted that she wanted her husband to take her away from the other wife and the mother-in-law and to go and live elsewhere. This he refused to do as he did not want to leave his mother, but on the day of my visit he had half consented to the prayers and entreaties of the younger wife who insisted that they should go and live with *her* mother, and who went so far as to get all her possessions out into the courtyard ready for removal. Then the mother-in-law asserted herself and sent for the marabout (as well as two or three uncles or elder relatives of the family) to arbitrate. When I arrived he had just been hearing the different sides of the case and the mother-in-law had finished up with a long accusation of her daughters-in-law, and also of her son, I fancy. The marabout was a fine, but almost comic sight as he stood, chin in hand and frowning severely, but looking as if he hardly knew what to say. Finally he decreed that all should make friends again and continue living together as before. The women were compelled to “kiss and make friends,” and the man to put his wife’s things back in the room. Outwardly peace and tranquillity reigned. But man-made peace does not last long, and the characters in the drama remaining unchanged, in a few weeks I heard that disputing and quarrelling had started again and the man had taken his *other* wife and gone to live with *her* parents!

“Fear was in the way,” was the verse that kept coming to my mind after a visit paid to another family living in a hill-side village. There were the father, an elderly marabout, the mother, and six children. I had heard that all except the father, had been very ill

with recurrent fever. On arriving I found that most of them were up and about again, but the mother was only just able to sit propped up for a few minutes, and she and one little girl, still prostrate, looked ghastly. They had evidently been at death's door. But what struck me most about these two was the haunted look of fear on both their faces. A little talk with the mother brought out the reason for this. Instead of the dull resignation to illness as something God had decreed, which is so commonly seen among Moslems, they were suffering from a terrible conviction that this malady was caused by evil spirits or djinns, perhaps partly in response to some ill-wishing on the part of their neighbours. And who could tell what more mischief the djinns might be planning?

To overcome the evil the mother proposed to take a long and expensive journey into Morocco to visit a certain marabout who would perhaps, if they paid him well, give them a "writing" or charm, powerful enough to conquer the djinns! All I could say about its being far better to put trust in the mercy of God and pray to Him for help, seemed of little avail. When I left them they were still bent on taking the journey, though the mother was grateful when I said I would pray in Jesus' Name for healing for her and her daughter.

Some days passed and I had not been able to get further news of the family, when one day I met the mother and father in the town, she, looking a different creature, back to her normal health again and without the look of fear on her face. On enquiry I found that they had not been able to get together the necessary money for the journey into Morocco, and had got well without that. How glad I was to be able to remind them of what I had tried to persuade them, that God is nearer than any marabout and that His mercy is *free*, and to hear them say to one another that I was right in telling them to ask of God not of man, and to receive their hearty thanks for my prayers. Truly, "fear was in the way" of Islam, but confidence and peace in the way of Christ.

V. WOOD.

Annual Meetings, 1946

It seemed like old times to be in the lovely Court Room at Caxton Hall once again on October 15th, for our Annual Meetings. The collection of dolls, dressed in various Arab costumes and grouped realistically on a table facing the door, backed by lifelike pictures of Arab faces and scenes, made some of the "exiles" from their adopted land feel almost homesick! Jewellery from the far-away M'zab country and a string of sweet spicy-smelling beads brought a wistful thought of *that* land now perforce left for so long without any Christian witness. How long will it be before the Lord's ambassadors again turn their faces southwards?

To the left of this colourful display stood the bookstall with quite a striking array of literature, both for English readers and for "export" also, so that friends could see something of the contribution the A.M.B. is making to the volume of Christian literature needed for Arab and French readers in North Africa.

But we could not spend too long in looking round and dreaming dreams, for friends were gathering for the afternoon session—not a large crowd (where were you all, Londoners?) but it was a joy to have many old friends of former years with us again. It was a special joy to have Miss Perkin, who arrived home just in time for the meetings after an absence of about eight years, and Mr. Buckenham, who got home a little earlier in the summer. Mrs. Buckenham, who was to have taken part, was convalescing after an operation and was unfortunately not able to be present.

Miss Perkin's report (given elsewhere in this issue) was an inspiring account, in retrospect, of God's goodness and mercy through the past years, with special reference to the marvellous way in which some of the material needs of the Mission had been met. Mr. Buckenham too, carried us on in a spirit of deep thankfulness to God for past mercies and deliverances, and in true faith bade us look ahead to a time of victory and reaping in the land. He spoke of the different phases through which the work had passed during the war years and of the

wonderful opportunities given to him and Mrs. Buckenham at Blida, for ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of thousands of service men and women. Many had found Christ there.

After the Home Secretary's brief report, giving encouraging details of the way in which God is answering our prayer for new recruits, and with an appeal to all to pray on and pray through in this matter, the Rev. T. L. Livermore, a most sympathetic chairman, turned our thoughts to Psalm 77. He spoke of its three-fold picture of faith—defiant, depressed, then delivered. How many of those present could also call to remembrance *their* "song in the night" and could say with the Psalmist, "Who is so great a God as our God. Thou art the God that doest wonders."

"What a privilege," said Mr. Livermore, "to be called by God to one of the most difficult parts of the Field. The Algiers Mission Band has been something like an advance force, parachuted into enemy territory before the Commander-in-Chief Himself comes to conquer and to take control. Everything is working towards the triumph day which is surely coming and which may be nearer than we think."

It was encouraging to see quite a number of young people coming in to the evening session when Mr. Collinson took the chair. Miss Grautoff and Miss Farmer, both of whom hoped shortly to return to North Africa, spoke of their hopes for the future and appealed for the prayer backing of friends at home.

Miss Edith Clark, who was for five years on the Field as a personal helper to the late Miss Kathleen Butler, spoke of God's leading through the past years when she was detained in Scotland through home duties, and of her hopes now that she is free again, of returning to full-time service in North Africa.

The possibility of Miss Chantler going out shortly to help Miss Grautoff on the practical side of things as a Mission-helper, was also mentioned, and all these workers were commended to God's care as they look to Him for guidance over the next step.

Mrs. Stalley's message centred round a story of Miss Trotter's concerning a smoul-

dering larch tree she had once seen on a Swiss hillside. A woodcutter's fire had set it alight a week previously, and it had smouldered ever since. "But will the fire not spread?" Miss Trotter had asked. "No," was the reply, "there is no flame, so it cannot spread." And it was so, damped by the mountain mists around it, and with its own sap within, the larch tree smouldered on and *nothing happened!*

"*There is no flame, so it cannot spread.*" What a picture of so much that is called organised Christianity to-day. Is it not also a true picture of much of our missionary work and interest? It smoulders on . . . but nothing happens! How far have the "mists" of unbelief and even of fear, damped down our enthusiasm for God's work as missionaries and Christian workers? As "home supporters" have the mists of lack of results, or little stirring news, caused our interest to smoulder? And what of the converts, upon whom the mists of loneliness and fear, and a misguided nationalism have descended? Are we praying for them as we ought? May our prayers be so God-guided and in such real faith, that these "mists" may be caused to disperse. So may God set us all "on fire" afresh! Thus would the text which hangs on the wall of one of the rooms at Miliana be made true of each one of our lives, "The fire shall ever be burning on the altar, it shall never go out."

Mr. Stalley followed with a brief account of what God has been doing on the Home side, of new friends made, of deepened interest, especially in Scotland where we have so many loyal supporters.

As Mr. Collinson brought the meeting to a close with prayer, we felt that truly God had been with us, and we wished that many other friends could have shared with us in that happy reunion.

In the passing of Mr. H. W. Verner the A.M.B. Council has lost a beloved and valued member. He always brought a sense of Christ's near presence, and we shall deeply miss his prayers and wise counsel.—Ed.

A Challenge to Faith

Do you think the son of God who died for him says of the Moslem, "There is no help for him in his God?" Has *He* not a challenge too for your faith, the challenge that rolled away the stone from the grave where Lazarus lay? "Said I not unto thee that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?" "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

I. LILIAS TROTTER.

Islam or Christ?

(A letter published in a Moslem paper some years ago, with the Editor's answer.)

"There is something I wish to say and if you can be so kind as to advise me, you would be saving me from all suffering. I am a girl of twenty and from the age of twelve I have committed every sin you can think of, in fact I have tasted of every leaf of the tree of life. Alas, there is nothing left for me but Hell when I die. I ask you sincerely what am I to do to be saved? I have put this question to a priest. He told me to repent, but to tell the truth I cannot repent, as what I have done I have enjoyed doing, though it was sin. Now will you advise me what I am to do so as to be saved from hell?"

The answer. "Turn over a new leaf. Lead a righteous life henceforward. This alone can wash off past sins. This is the only true atonement. Sins are washed off, the Koran assures us, by good deeds and by these alone."

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THE TESTIMONY OF A TUNISIAN CONVERT.

(Given at about the same time.)

"Why did God let Christ die? To save me from my sins. How can one be saved? A little while ago I should have said by prayers, reading, fasting and alms, but now I know it is only by the Redemption of our Lord the Christ."

FURTHER NOTES

FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham, after less than six months at home, are now back on their station at Blida. We are thankful for renewed health and strength given to them both, and also that a young friend is joining them as a personal helper for a short period. Please pray for Miss Jean Munro, when you think of our fellow-workers on the Blida station.

A short-service worker is also joining Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell at Miliana. We commend Miss Chantler to your prayers. May there be definite intercession for all three as they seek to re-open the work of that station which has been closed for three years.

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

With this issue we are including the Financial Statement of the Mission as on June 30th, 1946, the end of our financial year. We do so as an act of praise and thanksgiving for the faithfulness of the Master. He hath supplied all our need. The statement in sterling is of funds passed through the Home Office, while that in francs gives the picture of receipts and disbursements on the Field.

We give the statements as they come from the hands of the Auditors. It is somewhat difficult to appreciate the value of amounts in francs. For the first part of the financial year the £ sterling was worth 120 francs, then from the end of December 1945, it was at 480. Our remittances from home often took from six to eight weeks in transit. This explains, or will help to, why the Home Office remitted £1,696 10s. 4d., during the twelve months under review, while Field headquarters actually received from us £1,749. The transfer of money has speeded up considerably of late months.

The Home Council of the Algiers Mission Band wish it to be known that the Mission accepts gifts made under Deed of Covenant, and that the necessary document can be obtained by writing to the Secretary.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Field Statement of Accounts for the Year ending June 30th, 1946

RECEIPTS.	Francs.	Francs.
<i>General Fund :—</i>		
By Balance, July 31st, 1945	2121.40	
£1,749 remitted from Home Office ..	606231.80	
Remittance from Supporters in U.S.A.	71231.00	
Amounts from "Société Dar Naama"	40000.00	
Donations	26188.50	
		745772.70
<i>Appropriated Funds :—</i>		
Balances, July 1st, 1945	6023.60	
Sales : Scriptures and A.M.B. Literature	3282.00	
Donations through Home Office	41622.30	
Donations on the Field	1570.00	
		52497.90
	Francs	<u>798270.60</u>

Acting Treasurer: PHYLLIS M. RUSSELL.

Examined and found correct.

Algiers, November 3rd, 1946. HENRY R. TURNER.

PAYMENTS.	Francs.	Francs.
<i>General Fund :—</i>		
To Missionaries' Allowances	519170.00	
Rents, Taxes, Repairs	48398.00	
Travelling	14154.00	
Postage and Stationery	1524.50	
Headquarters' Service	47080.00	
Various Expenses	2301.05	
		632627.55
<i>Appropriated Funds :—</i>		
Colportage	1922.00	
Stations (designated amounts)	7679.50	
		9601.50
<i>Balances :—</i>		
General Fund	113145.15	
Appropriated Funds (as shown below) ..	42896.40	
		156041.55
	Francs	<u>798270.60</u>
<i>Appropriated Funds' Balances :—</i>		
Literature Production	37969.00	
Colportage	1984.30	
Stations (Bou-Saada and Tlemcen)	1504.00	
Relief Work	1438.50	
	Francs	<u>42896.40</u>

HOME OFFICE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 30th June, 1946

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Cash Balances, July 1st, 1945	1,234	18	1
Subscriptions and Donations	834	17	3
Appropriated Contributions	142	3	1
Income Tax Refund	54	2	11
Dividends and Interest	191	18	6
Sale of £934 10s. 3d. 3 per cent Conversion Stock	956	0	5
	£3,414	0	3

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
By Remittances to Field	1,696	10	4
Less Refund by Foreign Office	366	5	2
	1,330	5	2
Allowances to Missionaries in England	160	0	0
Allowance to Retired Missionary	89	4	0
Home Office Allowances	360	15	0
Travelling and Deputation Expenses	13	1	10
Stationery, Postages and General Expenses	63	15	9
Magazine	37	10	0
Less Receipts	12	1	3
	25	8	9
Payments in respect of Appropriated Contributions	129	17	5
Balances in hand, viz. :			
General Fund	656	16	7
Tlemcen Fund	316	0	0
Literature Fund	109	13	9
Field Literature Fund	78	1	0
Colportage Fund	37	1	0
Bind Fund	16	0	0
	1,211	12	4
	£3,414	0	3

INVESTMENTS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE BAND.

£	s.	d.
2,639	5	1
1,000	0	0
1,050	0	0
360	0	0
20	0	0
200	0	0

3½ per cent War Stock.
 3 per cent Conversion Stock.
 3 per cent Savings Bonds 1960-70.
 Investment Trust Corporation Deferred Stock.
 Industrial and General Trust Ordinary Stock.
 Anglo-Argentine Tramways 4 per cent 1st Debenture Stock.

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

C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.
(Incorporated Accountant).

11, Poultry,
E.C.2.
11th September, 1946.

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