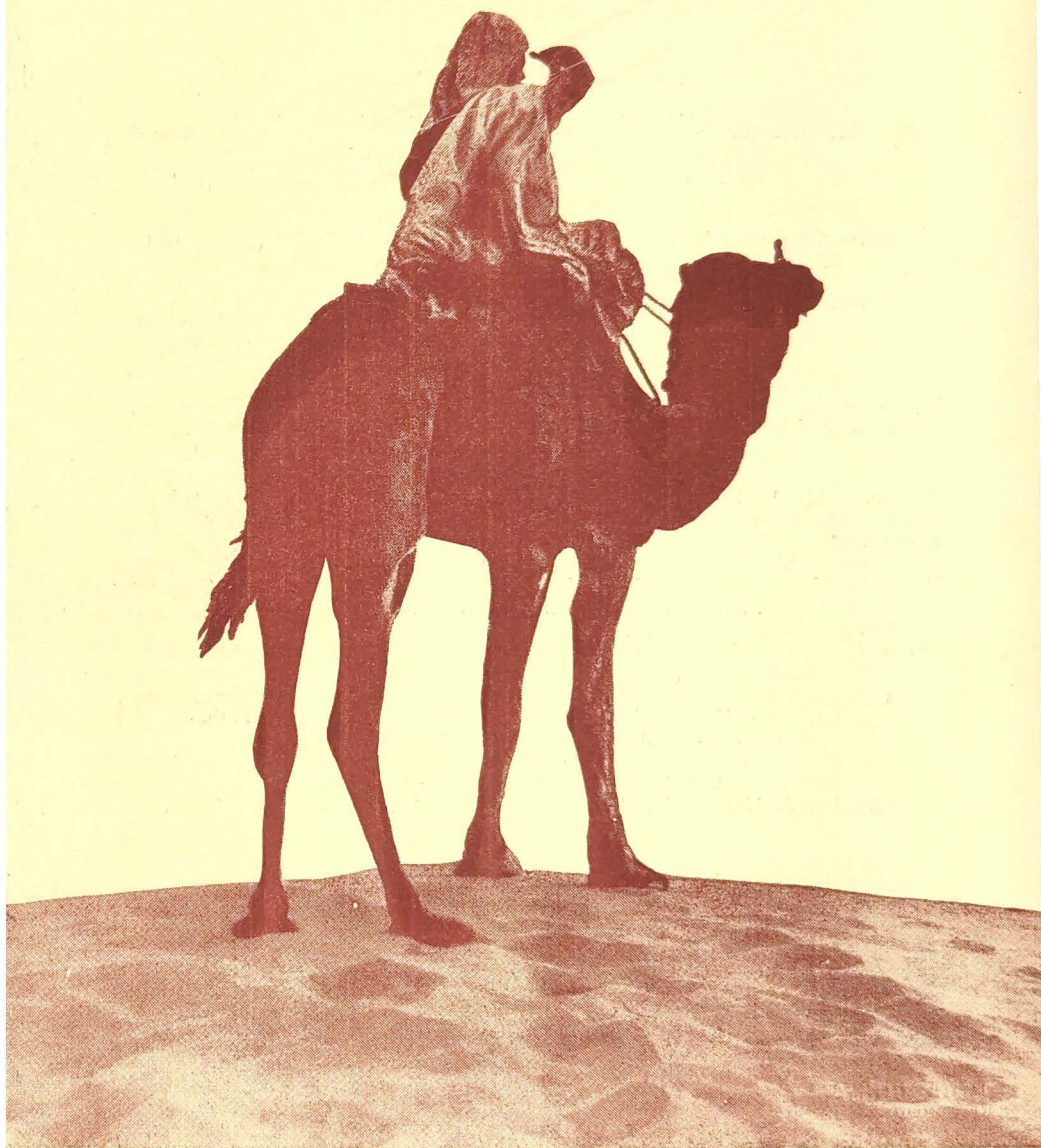


# *A Thirsty Land*



*Algiers Mission Band*

No. 139.

MAY - JUNE, 1962.

# ALGIERS MISSION BAND

*Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter*

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# A THIRSTY LAND

The Bi-monthly News and Prayer Sheet of the  
Algiers Mission Band

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50 cents (U.S.A.)

No. 139

MAY - JUNE, 1962

## *Editorial*

**O**WING to various difficulties confronting our Missionaries at the present time of unrest in Algeria, it is regretted though understandable, that full reports of the work on every Station are not always available, but special items for praise and prayer will be seen following the editorial comments.

In view of the great need of wisdom in planning for the future, we are pleased to announce that the A.M.B. Executive Committee has been strengthened by the addition of the Reverend H. R. Smart and Mr. R. W. Withers, both of whom have already served as members of the Home Council for some years.

Those who possess a copy of the book "*The Master of the Impossible*," by Constance E. Padwick, will know its treasured collection of the sayings of Miss Lillias Trotter.

The book is obtainable from The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1., the price now being 8/6.

D.B.E.

## SPECIAL ITEMS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

### *SETIF*

Praise for the increase in numbers at the girls' classes, pray that these girls may continue to come in good spirit.

Praise also for the special effort being made in the town by the pastor and some members of his parish, with whom Miss Nash will be joining in the distribution of tracts, New Testaments and Bibles.

\* \* \*

### *DAR NAAMA*

Praise God for His protecting and peace-giving Presence day by day; for news that Mme. Lull reports from Tolga that her work continues almost normally; that despite small numbers, there have been women and children either visiting or being visited in Blida, and here.

Prayer is asked for those who cannot be visited just now—Miss Clark and Miss Powell say that their work is "almost at a standstill" at present, at Relizane.

Pray, too, that the evil spirit stirred up in the hearts of many and leading to evil deeds, may be overcome by the Holy Spirit of mercy

and righteousness; also for protection and guidance for Miss Nash in her difficult situation at Touggourt, and indeed for each of our 'family' of Missionaries at this most distressing time in Algeria.

## STATION NEWS

*Germaine Chollet*

**SETIF**

**Spring, 1962**

There is not much to say about the actual activity of this station during the first months of the year. Though there *has* been activity since the beginning of March, when classes were begun again. About ten new girls have joined the little group attending these classes since the establishment of the station in this part of Sétif.

Two weeks ago, a little girl, whose family belongs to Tolga (where some years ago her sisters and cousins were pupils of Madame Lull and Mlle. Guibé), came to the class here. I hope to visit her home some day, but feel it better to wait for an invitation, as she comes from a difficult quarter, where I do not know any Arab family as yet.

I have not been able to do much visiting these days. When I have visited, I have always been well received, but there are a great many cases of measles in Sétif, and I don't want to run any risk of carrying it from one house to another—there are little children everywhere.

I have had a good many opportunities of giving out tracts in the market, and in shops and petrol stations.

On the occasion of the "Bible

Week," Pastor Berthalon and a young professor arranged an exhibition of Bible Literature. I added to it with A.M.B. and S.G.M. literature such as I had, and people seemed to be interested. There were above all publications, those of the Scripture Reading Union.

We are conscious that the time may be short for carrying the Gospel to this country, and suggest that we should unite more closely in prayer with others who desire to further this work.

.....  
*M. Lull*

**TOLGA**

**Spring, 1962**

This has been a good season for the work. About ten of the older girls have come very regularly.

We have finished our studies of Women of the New Testament, and of the Gospel of John.

After the time of fanaticism inspired by the Fast month, calm has returned.

The big girls have completed the sets of baby-clothes they have been making and the result is satisfactory; much progress has been made. The course of lessons on baby welfare has also now completed their practical knowledge.

The days for games (net-ball) have been marked by much enthusiasm. Also, new pupils have been received for the Thursday and Sunday classes, but there are more irregular pupils than in the first part of the school year.

Many inhabitants of the village, who had been living in Algiers, have now returned to Tolga, and other

young men have come back from France. They greet me amicably and love to recall the 'good old days' of their childhood when they attended Monsieur Lull's Bible classes.

Pastor Bellet has had three meetings for boys, which were very well attended.

The Easter Message was heard by all who came to the house—what will be left in their hearts? May the Spirit of God work within them, and may our prayer for this be persevering.

*P. M. Russell & J. Guibé*

**BLIDA**

*"He led them on safely, so that they feared not.*

*Psa. 78: 53*

*(The news contained in this article, is applicable only up to March, 1962.)*

These words sum up our experience during the first three months of 1962. The work has been carried on very much on the spot, but we have rejoiced in the steady stream of children coming to the house for teaching.

The little day school has increased from ten to seventeen pupils. Nearly all of them can now recite alone the poems they are learning, and this they do with great expression. More important than their prowess in the French language, however, is the discipline they are acquiring, which shows itself in tidy hair and orderly behaviour. When Thursday comes round and they join forces with other

small girls for the weekly Bible lesson, they marshal the latter into line, before ever the doors are opened. They then file in, little ones in front, and settle down in their usual places, with a minimum of fuss and wait in silent expectancy for the lesson to begin.

The school girls who come in the afternoon have been dwindling in numbers, since the Fast month, but but those who remain faithful are very keen to do their home-work and learn by heart various texts from the Bible.

Sunday morning finds us with a group of infant boys at the front gate. They are a strange mixture of cherub on Sunday and demon all the rest of the week. Often bigger brothers try to push in, as well, but we have to be firm or the atmosphere of the class might easily be ruined. As it is, they are alert and eager, not afraid to speak up when questioned and ready to make comments of their own. God has been speaking through the sudden death of one of these boys. He was with us in the morning, as we sang a metrical version of Psalm 23 to the tune of Crimmond, and he seemed quite his usual self. Early in the evening, he had a fit and died just before midnight.

For the first time within memory we did not enter a single native home, during the month of March. The political situation was partly responsible for our decision and also the fact that school holidays were in progress, which meant that the Mission house became a constant target for stone-throwers, who had nothing better to do.

*M. D. Grautoff*

## EL AID EL-KEBIR

It is the eve of the Aid el Kebir (the "fête des moutons" as many call it) when the Muslims remember the story of Abraham and his offering his son to God. But this story, as told in the Koran gives no name to the son, and the Arabs give the name of Ishmael, the father of their race, to the son in question.

The little family living under our roof had a surprise visit, for Z's sister driven by the brother-in-law, arrived early on Sunday morning with their children from Algiers. I feared that it would embarrass our Christians—especially when the relatives decided to take them off to a near-by town (where a sick relative lives) and possibly to spend the night there.

God overruled otherwise, for the car broke down through lack of fuel, and they did not get beyond the town below us, so were back here for their mid-day meal.

At 7.15 on Sunday evening, I invited them to come to my sitting-room to hear Arabic hymns on the organ. We chose one with a native tune, the words beginning with "There is no God but God." The men and women, and some of the children came, and after the hymns we had pictures of Abraham and Isaac, and the story was simply told—Abraham, a picture of God's love—Isaac, showing man's need of a sinless Saviour—and Christ Jesus, "the Lamb of God."

Then Dj. read us the story of the prodigal son, and after a hearty shaking of hands they went to their supper.

We do not know when we may meet these visitors again, but certainly

having an Arab family on the premises does bring opportunities for Gospel messages—and Arab visitors are so naturally polite and grateful.

*Rev & Mrs. H. Isaacs*

## MILIANA TO-DAY

No wonder the Romans built a fortress on the site where the Miliana of to-day is situated. This town is like some giant "eagle's Nest" perched high on the side of Jebel Zaccar, with the summit of the mountain raising its head far above.

As you approach the town by the ribbon-like road, which turns and twists in a marvellous way as it mounts from the plain below, still far above your head juts out the strong, solid wall of old Miliana.

From this wall, the view is magnificent. Behind you is the town, built on a small plateau in the mountain side. Then the great mountain, which is full of iron, soars away up into the blue sky. In front of you the side of the mountain descends steeply, covered with innumerable fruit trees, and at this time of the year one mass of blossoms.

In the distance, the great plain of the Cheliff stretches away, with its river twisting and turning on its way to the sea. This plain is dotted with farmsteads which are surrounded by huge fields. Still further away, the Oursenis mountains loom up in a succession of ridges; and behind them, though not seen, the High Plateau commences which finally gives way to the Sahara.

Miliana itself is a closely packed little town with a population which is mostly Muslim. It is still important

as of course it dominates the whole region. But it has lost a lot of its ancient renown, owing to the coming of modern transport and like changes.

To find the Mission Station of the Algiers Mission Band you follow the main road into the town, cross it, and turn down towards the local hospital. There, on the corner of Rue de Fontenoy stands the home of Miss Grautoff, the oldest worker in the Mission, who has held this outpost for God and souls for some fifty years.

Still agile and full of zeal for souls, Miss Grautoff preaches the Glorious Gospel of the Grace of God to lost, needy Arab women (and to a few men). Indeed, although advanced in years, she has no thought of retrenching, but rather to extend the work as circumstances allow. Though, of course, such is the condition of Algeria at the moment that, if missionaries can still manage to gather Arabs on their stations to hear the Gospel, they are doing wonders.

We had the pleasure, in response to a call for help from Miss Grautoff, to spend some days with her in Miliana. On the station an Arab family lives. They were taken in during a time of distress. "X," the husband, has been converted as well as his wife and sister. It was a joy to see the whole family (children as well) gathered with us for a time of singing the praises of the Lamb, and of hearing the Truth of the Gospel. We especially brought out the need of Christians—whether Europeans or North Africans — to be "filled with the Spirit" in accordance with the words of the Lord when He charged the Disciples to "await the Promise of the Father."

But the high lights of our stay were the times when some 80 veiled Muslim women packed into the mission station to hear the Good News! In they came, some old, some young, and some brought children. What a joy it was to see such a number in front of one. Not all wore veils, but they were clothed in the long, draping, white "haiks." Miss Grautoff played the little organ for the singing, and Mrs. Isaacs spoke plainly to them of the "Book of Life" and again on the "Wedding Garment." At times, as Mrs. Isaacs spoke, there was rapt attention and the faces of the women showed how the Word was going into hearts.

What a wonderful opportunity this was, especially when the fact of the unrest and trouble in Algeria is taken into account. What is more, on the Friday and the Sunday, we saw as we gazed away up onto the mountain side, what seemed to be patches of *snow*. But we soon found what they were. They were crowds of Arab women on a pilgrimage to a Saint's sanctuary — that of "Sidi Abd-el-Kader." Painfully they climbed the steep side of the mountain (The top is some 5,000 feet in height) — and what for? To gain some "merit." Poor deluded women. Is it not a cause for rejoicing that perhaps some of those very women were among the 80 present at the meetings on the Mission Station?

But what shall we say of the future? Miss Grautoff is now unable to do what younger missionaries can do. She needs help urgently. Is this open door to be shut? Perhaps the God of Love will call some one who reads these lines to "come to the help of the Lord against the mighty?"

Reader, is God speaking to *you*? Do not consult with "flesh and blood" but "Whatever He saith unto you—DO IT."

R. J. Waine

## ON TRIAL

Whatever may be the rights of the case, and it is not our purpose to pronounce judgment in any event, one cannot help but admire the straightforward admission of responsibility made by ex-General Salan in his opening speech at his trial which commenced in Paris this week. "I am the chief of the OAS, My responsibility is therefore complete," were the words with which he began his speech which lasted nearly an hour. His closing words were almost as dramatic. "I shall now remain silent" he said, and it would seem that that is exactly what he intends to do.

In these days of easy tolerance and half hearted allegiance it is refreshing to find one man who is ready to stand up and admit he is ready to die for a Cause.

It was just this attitude that in the early days of the Christian Church made many believers go unflinchingly to their death rather than bow to the persecutions of the world conquering Roman Emperors.

The last eight years of armed conflict in Algeria has produced many men with similar convictions. Both Muslims and Europeans, Arab and French have demonstrated that in certain circumstances men prefer death to dishonour. How sad it is that so unworthy a cause should pro-

duce such a martyr spirit when the nobler cause of Christ languishes for want of men and women imbued with this same spirit.

The Church of Christ is today standing trial in the eyes of the world. The un-believer looks in vain for the spirit of which martyrs are bred. Youth, the world over, would, I have no doubt, rally to the cause of Christ if only they could see in those of us who call ourselves Christians something of this martyr spirit.

On my last visit to Ouargla, nearest large oasis to the rapidly developing Saharan Oil Fields, I talked with an old man of 102, or so he claimed to be. He listened with attention to my message and seemed not at all disposed to dispute the truth of the Gospel on any other ground than that it couldn't be true for, said he, with a critical smile, "no one has ever bothered to come and tell me before."

And Christians at home sit back in their comfortable armchairs while millions, the world over, judge our message not to be true because they discern no evidence that we really care enough even to bestir ourselves, —Let alone die.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5: 8). The very least we can do in gratitude for such amazing love is to be ready when He calls to obey His summons, and demonstrate to a terrible sin-sick and war-weary world that the martyr spirit is still to be found in the ranks of the Church of Christ.



D. B. Edge

## A TE DEUM TAPESTRY

Tens of thousands of persons who are familiar with religious truths have not noticed yet that Christ ever founded a Society at all. . . . The sense of belonging to such a Society transforms life. It is the difference between being a solitary knight tilting single-handed, and often defeated, at whatever enemy one chances to meet on one's little acre of life, and the *feel* of belonging to a mighty army marching throughout all time to a certain victory. This note of universality given to even the humblest work we do, this sense of comradeship, this link with history, this thought of a definite campaign, this promise of success, is the possession of every obscurest unit in the Kingdom of God.

Hundreds of years before Christ's Society was formed, its Programme had been issued to the world. I cannot think of any scene in history more dramatic than when Jesus entered the church in Nazareth and read it to the people.

TO BIND UP THE BROKEN-HEARTED :  
TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE  
CAPTIVES :  
TO COMFORT ALL THAT MOURN :  
TO GIVE UNTO THEM —  
BEAUTY FOR ASHES,

THE OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING,  
THE GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR  
THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS.

What an exchange — Beauty for Ashes, Joy for Mourning, Liberty for Chains! No marvel "the eyes of all them that were in the Synagogue were fastened on Him" as He read; or that they "wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His lips."

What are the great words of Christianity according to this Programme? Take as specimens these :

LIBERTY,	BEAUTY,
COMFORT,	JOY.

These are amongst the greatest words of life. Give them their due extension, the significance which Christ undoubtedly saw in them and which Christianity undoubtedly yields, and there is almost no great want or interest of mankind which they do not cover.

These are not only the greatest words of life but they are the best. This Programme, to those who have misread Christianity, is a series of surprises. Observe the most prominent note in it. It is *gladness*. Its first word is "good-tidings," its last is "joy."

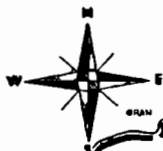
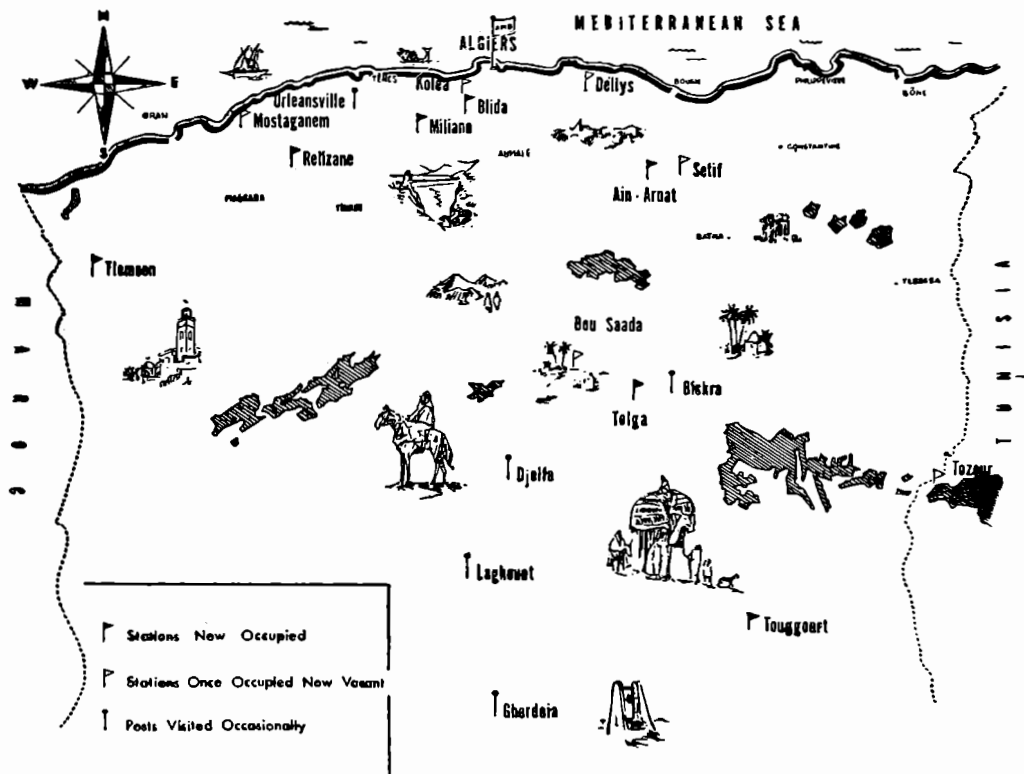
*The Programme of Christianity*  
HENRY DRUMMOND

## PRAYER CYCLE

*"There is nothing too hard for Thee." Jer. 32 : 17*

- Monday :** ALGIERS. The Misses V Wood & B. Gow, Mr. & Mrs.  
P. G. Longley.
- Tuesday :** BLIDA. Miss P. M. Russell and Mlle J. Guibé.  
MILIANA. Miss M. D. Grautoff.
- Wednesday :** RELIZANE. The Misses E. Clark and A. E. Powell.
- Thursday :** TLEMCEN. Rev. & Mrs. R. J. Waine (on furlough)
- Friday :** SETIF. Mlle. G. Chollet.
- Saturday :** TOLGA. Madame Lull.  
TOUGGOURT. Miss I. K. Nash.
- Sunday :** LONDON CENTRE. Miss D. B. Edge and Missionaries  
on furlough at Algiers House.

Please remember also, the members of the Executive Committee, Algiers,  
and of the Home Council, London.



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ALGIERS

Dellys

Blida

Miliana

Retzane

Setif

Ain-Araat

Bou Saada

Biskra

Telfa

Djelfa

Laghouat

Touggourt

Ghardaia

Tlemcen

Orleanville

Mostaganem

APHALG

CONSTANTINE

BATNA

FLORISSA

ALGERIA