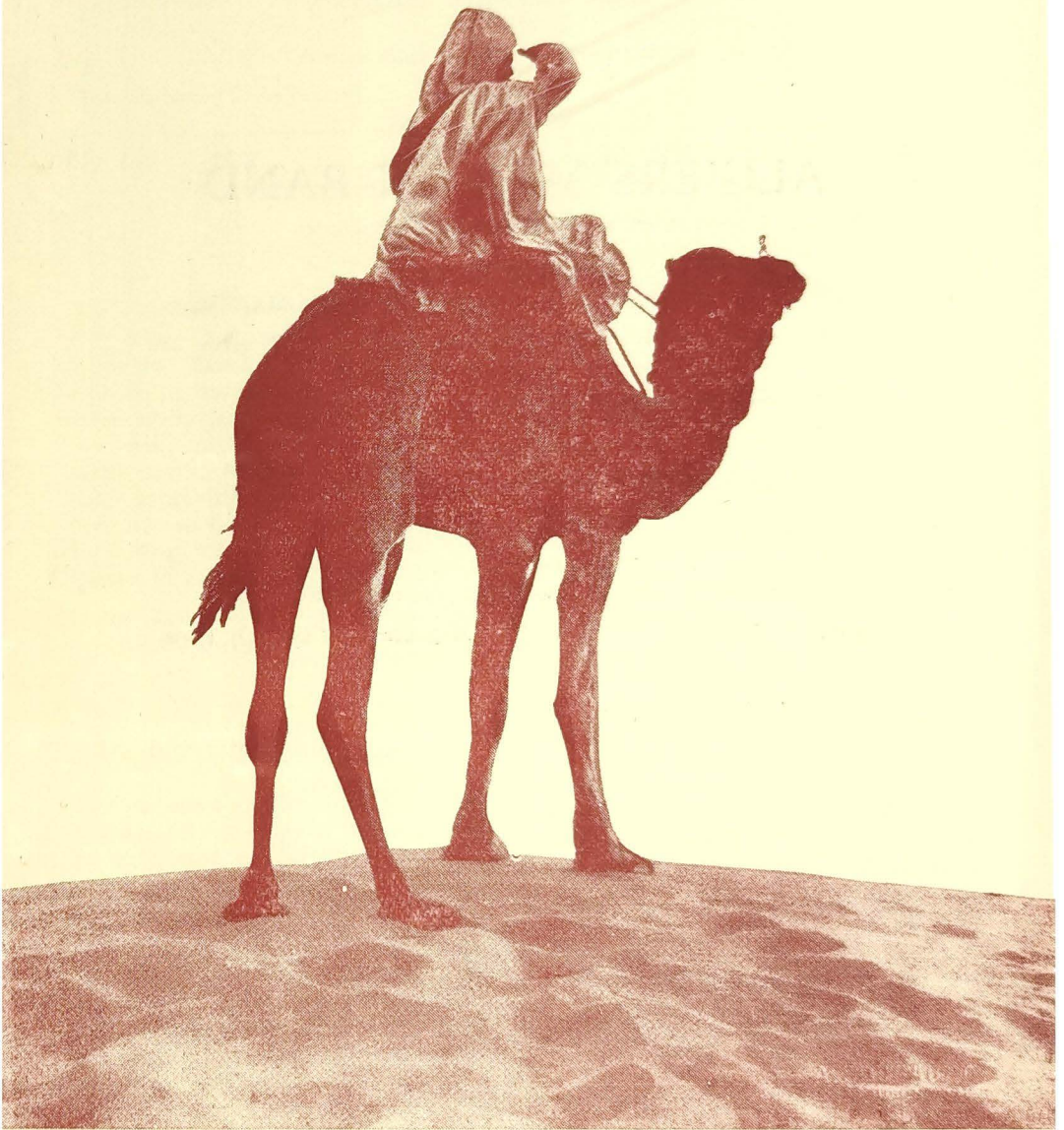


A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

No. 140.

JULY - AUGUST, 1962.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter

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MR. P. G. LONGLEY

Executive Secretary and Treasurer: MR. P. G. LONGLEY

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A THIRSTY LAND

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*E*ditorial

READERS, particularly perhaps those to whom Miss V. A. C. Wood and Miss I. K. Nash are known, will be pleased to know that both these Missionaries (mentioned on the next page in "Notes from the Secretary's Desk, Algiers, July '62") are now improving steadily, and when they are well again, we look forward to having them with us at Algiers House, to recuperate.

We ask you to pray for their complete recovery.

A DATE TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, 3rd October, 1962, when the Annual Meetings of the Band will be held, God willing, at 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. in the Tudor Room, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Invitations will be sent nearer the date, but in the meantime, it will be of interest to our readers to know that the Chairman at the afternoon meeting, will be Mr. Cecil Bird, and the Guest speaker the Reverend John Potter, Minister of Tollington Park Baptist Church, London, N.4.

After a tea interval in the hall, Dr. S. Farrant Russell will take the Chair at the evening meeting, with Mr. E. J. Long of the North Africa Mission as the Guest Speaker.

It is much regretted that none of our Missionaries will be available to speak this year, but it is hoped that there will be reports from the Field & Home Secretary-Treasurers.

We look forward to seeing you at one or both of these meetings, and trust you will bring a friend.

May we take this opportunity to remind those who are interested in the Gift Stall (in memory of the late Miss M. C. C. Wood) which is to be held at our Annual Meetings in October next, that their gifts for sale should arrive priced, if possible, and parcels addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, Algiers Mission Band, 92 Gordon Rd: Ealing, London W.13. *Parcels should be posted before October 1st.*

Peter G. Longley

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Algiers, July, 1962

Great changes have taken place in Algeria within the last few months.

The country has now been declared an independent state, following the referendum on self-determination which produced an overwhelming positive reply from the people. The celebrations were fervent, especially as they marked the return of peace after seven and a half years of war.

Now Algeria is faced with the immense task of creating order and prosperity in a land where there has been so much upheaval in the life of all its citizens. The setting up of a regular government and the establishing of relations with other countries are among the first tasks to be attempted.

We are sure that all our readers will not cease to pray earnestly for Algeria.

* * *

The Reverend and Mrs. R. J. Waine will not be returning to the Field for the present. Mr. Waine has temporarily taken up the post of Bursar at All Nations Bible College, until the way is clear for a return to North Africa. We are glad at this opportunity Mr. Waine will have of placing the missionary challenge before young Christian men.

* * *

We regret to announce that Miss Wood had a fall in El-Biar on 22nd June, fracturing her left arm and left leg. On medical advice, she was transferred by air to England, and is now undergoing treatment at Orpington Hospital, Kent.

Miss Nash is also unwell and is under observation in hospital at High-

gate, London. She has had a strenuous time since last autumn and is in great need of physical restoration.

Please pray for these two ladies in this their time of need.

* * *

During June, three others from our ranks left Algeria. — Miss Gow for furlough in Scotland, Miss Grautoff to spend some time in London, and Madame Lull to spend the summer in France with her family.

* * *

Finally, we ask all our supporters to continue in prayer that God's Will for the A.M.B. may be clearly ascertained, and that the pathway of His choice for the months and years ahead may be revealed. In face of many changes around us, and increasing problems in maintaining the work, nothing less than the closest walk with God is necessary if we are to share in His work in North Africa.

Peter and Eva Longley

SIX CHANGING MONTHS A Report from Algiers

From January to June 1962, conditions in Algiers were constantly changing. In such a situation, missionary work had often to be adapted to meet the demands of the moment.

As the months progressed — January, February, March — the situation seemed to worsen. Death and destruction were everywhere apparent.

Then on 19th March, came the "cease-fire" between French and Algerians. But instead of peace, things became even worse, right through April and May. June was less troubled, however, especially after 17th, when life began to return to something approaching normal.

From mid-April to mid-June very few Algerians were to be seen in El-Biar streets. Except during Ramadhan — the month of fasting, which this year was from 6th February to 6th March — two or three women came to the Mission almost every Friday afternoon until the beginning of May. After that no one called; even the gardener and the daily woman ceased coming. After 17th June, on the contrary, a few people began to visit us once again.

The class for girls, twice weekly, which had an average attendance of seven or eight during January, began to be very irregular during Ramadhan. After that, apart from a class of eleven girls a week since the "cease-fire", very few came. After the end of April no Algerian children were to be seen in the streets of El-Biar at all. Seventy-five people, mainly Europeans from most evangelical groups in the city, gathered at "Dar Naama" on Sunday 14th January, for the final meeting of the Universal Week of Prayer. A few other open meetings were held during the period, notably at Easter. A series of Bible Studies for Algerian Christians had been planned by Mr. Charles Marsh, but as none were able to come, meetings for missionaries were held instead. Mr. Marsh led sessions of prayer and showed coloured slides of the Chad region of Equatorial Africa, which he had recently visited.

It was found impossible to hold the annual Conference for Algerian Christians at Whitsuntide; this was reluctantly cancelled.

Some visiting in Algerian homes was possible throughout the period; several homes in various parts of the city received the Gospel Message. During the time when no Algerian dared to come into El-Biar, one or two ways of helping the people were possible, such as collecting their letters at the Post Office, obtaining medicine for them at the chemists, and taking small supplies of food to a few needy families.

Although interruptions in postal and telephone services were frequent — causing long delays in correspondence and communications — and many shops were closed, we praise God that we were never without essential supplies.

The last day of June was the eve of the referendum, the result of which was never in doubt. For the people of Algeria, the day of Independence was dawning.

*E. Clark &
A. E. Powell*

RELIZANE
(April - June, 1962)

Owing to existing circumstances, our work has been very much restricted and we have not been able to visit in the native part of the town. However, it has been possible to call on Arabs living in the European quarter.

One of them, a girl of seventeen, has for some time been agreeably disposed to the Gospel message. She

had been coming to the Mission house for simple Bible study, but had to cease coming because her father objected. We are glad to report that now her father seems more friendly and we hope we may be able to continue the Bible studies in her home. This may be more profitable, as it will give an opportunity for others in the court to listen.

Also, due to the circumstances, no one had been coming to the house. Then, one day, after five weeks, one of the children appeared on the doorstep. You can imagine our joy at seeing her again and, through her, being able to have news of those we could not visit. Two days later, she came back with her mother and sister, but they were so full of fear that it was difficult to get them to listen to anything we had to say.

Another day, two girls aged fifteen called. They had not been to the house before, but we had met one of them in a house we visited. They seemed quite interested and listened attentively to the message.

We have lately been in contact with a European family (R.C.) with whom we have had several talks. Through this family we had a visit from the R. C. Sister-in-charge of the Medical Centre. She is English, and had wanted to call on us for some time. She was very much interested in all we had to tell her about our work and has invited us to visit her, which we hope to do some time.

M. D. Grautoff

CHALLENGE TO PRAYER

Perhaps the readers of our magazine may say — why is this one writing who has come over to England away from all the restlessness and uncertainty in Algeria? It is indeed wonderful to be able to walk about the streets of London without hearing a shot or seeing others killed or being attacked (if elderly) for one's handbag, or have the military parading the streets, and the ambulances rushing the injured to hospital or if on a journey, to be stopped by military police.

Yet, in this land of peace, one's heart, prayers and daily thoughts are with those holding the fort in Algeria, and especially where the mission station is for the time closed and the little groups of believers may feel themselves forsaken by their missionary friends.

A young couple, the husband baptized and the wife (who expected to join him this year in the same witness) are guarding the mission house in Miliana, they live in a room in the court. Already, the military in connection with the new provisional government are sending emissaries to trouble them. " Is the house empty? " is a question often asked, (how many French homes found empty have already been confiscated with Arab families in). Again a demand comes " The whole of the exterior of this house must be repainted. " Then the harrassed guardian with a white, drawn face, hurries off to tell about it all at Headquarters, he is anxious and wondering why Mademoiselle " Mi-belle " as they would say, had left at

such a critical time. — They do not realise that authorities would not wish her to be away in the mountains alone, with only Arabs to care for her should serious disturbances arise. Now, I am asking you to share with me in prayer for this family (guarding the station) that they may be strong in faith, looking daily to the Saviour and to the Holy Spirit's guidance, during a time of such emotional excitement around them, with cries of "liberty". Do they ever remember the schools (free for their children) the medical help, the wonderful roads made for them by the French into the beautiful mountains and forests and down through the deserts? I wonder, *So much* spent on their land. Now under Muslim rule, if persecution comes, will they stand true." We think of early days when Christianity was seemingly stamped out for they had no books. To-day though younger men and women should all have learned to read, yet how soon the women forget, how few of them ask for Scriptures (through fear, lest they be taken from their homes so without the meetings they cannot feed themselves on the Word of God.

I think of S. A. nearly blind, who came to hear the Word on a Sunday, and how in his prayer he usually quoted "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin". Then there is blind Yamina, who loves to sing the hymns she so well remembers after fifteen years of working with us in the mission house. And her son, who in former years studied his Bible (Old and New Testament) but oh! these "*buts*." Since his marriage to a Muslim girl he no longer seeks fellowship with us, a prodigal, but Our Father is waiting for his return, it was a communistic set that undermined what

seemed such bright faith. — Formerly his face witnessed, but he is now haggard and frowning.

Please remember also the several women who bravely sang at our meetings in spite of the old women at the back of the hall, who covered their mouths lest the message came in, and pointed the finger at those who were witnessing by their singing.

Another, a mother of 12 children, who may not attend meetings but who came (with a few children under school age) once or twice a week, for fellowship, would say "I am so lonely since my sister left Miliana." Alas, her Muslim husband had been a teacher in the school faithful to the French. One night they came and seized him from his home and for months there was no news, till the assassin was caught with others and boasted that he had killed this teacher *en retraite*, so the widow (helped by the French authorities) left this town of sad memories. N. came regularly to me and would pathetically say "I have nowhere else I can go." These are just a few, there are many others who are secret believers here, as in other towns.

May God who knows the hearts of all, protect, comfort, and keep them true; yes, in the face of persecution and loneliness and may He keep open the doors, that others — called by the very difficulties and possible dangers — may join us on this needy field.

Arabic will now be taught in all the schools. What an opportunity for Christian literature presently!

D. B. Edge

A TE DEUM
TAPESTRY

If our joy consists in His Giving us victory over sin, our joy goes if we are overtaken in a fault. If our joy rests upon His work in and through us, we may not always be conscious of just what He is accomplishing, and we may be exalted or cast down unduly.

But if our joy is in HIM and what HE is, that cannot change or fluctuate, and we can always abound in joy.

..
*How to live the
Victorious Life*

AN UNKNOWN CHRISTIAN.

Who shall separate us from the us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Even as it is written,

For Thy sake we are killed all the day long;

We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans viii. 35-39.

* * *

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of Life, Thou Light of
men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good;
To them that find Thee, All in All.

BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX.

PRAYER CYCLE

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. — Zeph iii : 15.

Monday	Algiers	Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Longley. Miss I. B. Gow (on furlough). Miss V. Wood (temporarily in England).
Tuesday	Blida Miliana	Miss P.M. Russell & Mlle. J. Guibé. Miss M. D. Grautoff (temporarily in England).
Wednesday	Relizane	The Misses E. Clark & A. E. Powell.
Thursday	Tlemcen	Temporarily closed. Rev. & Mrs. R. J. Waine (temporarily in England).
Friday	Sétif	Mlle. G. Chollet.
Saturday	Tolga Touggourt	Madame Lull. Miss Nash (temporarily in England).
Sunday	London Centre	Miss D. B. Edge, & Missionaries residing.

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

