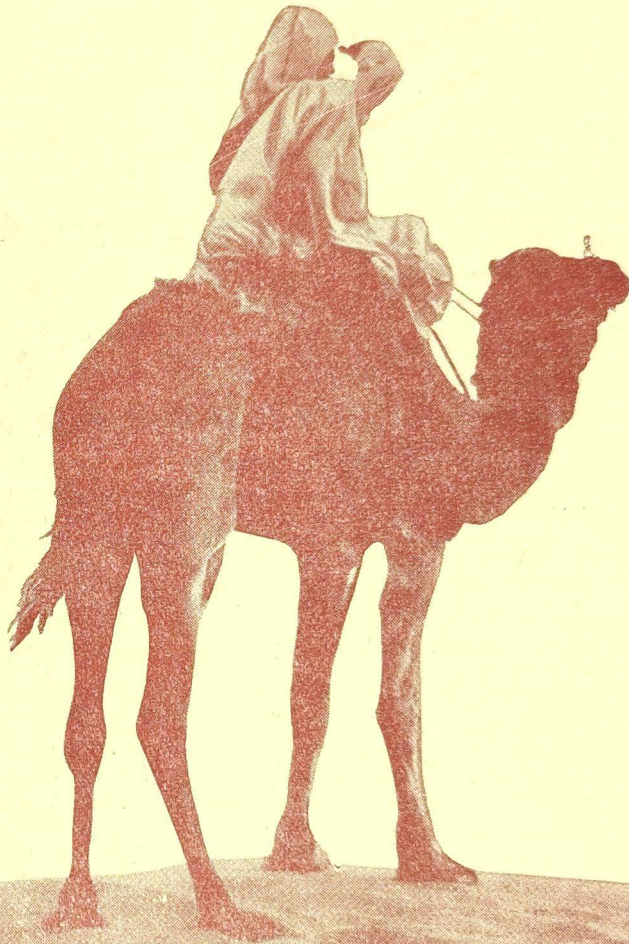


A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

No. 141.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1962.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter

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A THIRSTY LAND

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And he called His Name

JESUS

Matthew 1, 25.



Editorial

With the approaching Festive Season, we bring cordial greetings to our Readers, wishing them a joyous and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in the Coming Year.

OBITUARY

We much regret to record as we deeply mourn the loss, that Miss Ida K. Nash, who was for so long one of our A.M.B. 'family' of missionaries, fell asleep in Jesus on the 25th August last, at the Farnborough Hospital, Kent, after severe illness.

The funeral was at the Marylebone Cemetery, N. Finchley, where her grave is to be found in the shade of an old accasia tree — so fitting after the many years spent in the heat of the desert sun.

We extend to the members of her family our most sincere sympathy in

their bereavement, and we rejoice that the one who endeared herself to us all, is now at rest.

* * *

*ANNUAL MEETINGS, LONDON,
OCTOBER 3rd, 1962.*

It is regrettable that, owing to the General Railway Strike on 3rd October last, it was found necessary to abandon our Meetings at Caxton Hall.

Waiting almost to the last minute, in the hope that the Strike might be called off, it was decided eventually that there was no option but to cancel. We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused to anyone who may have braved the situation in going to the Caxton Hall that afternoon or evening, but it was impossible to let everyone know of the cancellation at such short notice. We hope, however, that you will be with us for next year's meetings.

* * *

FOR YOUR DIARY

In view of the disappointment on 3rd October, it is hoped to have our next Annual Meetings early in 1963, and so Wednesday, 22nd May has been fixed, God Willing. The Meetings will be held in the Tudor Room,

Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1., at 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

If you have your new diary, do please make a note of this date.

* * *

**A WORD TO CONTRIBUTORS
TO THE GIFT STALL.**

We warmly thank you for all you did to help make the Stall attractive with your useful gifts. Your efforts are not wasted, for the gifts are being kept towards the Stall at next year's Meetings in May. If you would like to go on helping to add to the Stall, we would be grateful if you could perhaps work to that end through the long winter evenings ahead.

* * *

"A THIRSTY LAND"

A great many of our Readers may be wondering at the omission of the last issue of the Magazine, that is, the September/October number which it was not possible to print due to a shortage of material owing to difficult circumstances in Algeria. However, whatever articles were available are now embodied in this issue.

Owing to the rise in costs of printing and postage, there is to be a slight increase in annual subscriptions, i.e. from 3/- to 3/6 per annum.

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S
DESK**

Algiers, September/October, 1962.

**News of Missionary Personnel,
and others.**

The Late Miss I. K. Nash:

As most of you already know, our colleague Miss Nash went peacefully to be with the Lord on Saturday 25th August, at 7.30 p.m.

On the 13th August, she had been transferred from Brighton to another Convalescent Home at Bromley, Kent, and a week later had been admitted to Farnborough Hospital, Kent.

Miss Grautoff and Miss Edge had visited her there on the 24th August.

The funeral was in London on 31st August. Our sympathy goes to her relatives; for her sake, we rejoice that she is now with Christ, which is far better.

Miss V. A. C. Wood:

We are pleased to report that Miss Wood continues to make good progress. She is staying at Algiers House, Ealing, London, from where she writes happily that she is able to take walks round the garden most days, with the aid of two sticks. She has also been out to tea, and to Church.

Miss Wood spent a fortnight at the Mildmay Convalescent Home in Worthing prior to going to Algiers House on the 19th September last.

Miss M. D. Grautoff is still at Algiers House for the present, and is well.

Miss P. M. Russell and Mlle. J. Guibé are hoping to begin afresh their classes at Blida. They have been able to pay a number of visits to homes, especially to the parents of class girls.

The Misses E. Clark and A. E. Powell returned to Relizane on 19th July, following news that the house there had been broken into, though fortunately nothing had been stolen. They have been able to make some interesting contacts but are as yet unable to do a great deal of visiting. Please pray that the doors may soon open.

Madame Lull:

After spending a happy holiday with her children in France, Madame Lull returned to Tolga at the end of September, when she received a warm welcome from the people there. Everything was in order in the house, and the car had not been touched. She thanks God for His protection over these material possessions during a difficult time.

Most of the older girls who came to the classes last season have since been married, but all the smaller girls have returned to the classes which are held twice weekly. Madame Lull has also been able to visit some of the homes.

Hélène and Christiane are again with their mother at Tolga, while Danielle and Jean are at school in France.

Mademoiselle G. Chollet writes from Setif, that she has been having some girls to classes several times a week, though only a few come as others have moved from the district.

Miss B. Gow, who is on furlough in Dundee, writes to say that her health has improved.

"**Dar Naama**" was relatively quiet during July, although there was plenty of noise outside with the Algerian independence celebrations.

Some homes have been visited, and there have been a number of callers at the house. There seems to be a friendly spirit among the people.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaacs (of Emmanuel Missions) have been at Dar Naama for several months, and have helped on more than one occasion at Miliana. And, Miss E. Chantler arrived in Algiers on 25th October, from England,

M. D. Grautoff

**IN MEMORY OF
IDA K. NASH**

A sad loss to our Algiers Mission Band, for God has seen fit to call 'Home' our brave fellow missionary Miss Ida Nash, who joined the Band in 1911, first as Secretary to Miss Trotter in Algiers, but was soon launched into Arabic study and then missionary work. She was a good French scholar before she came to us, and after her studies she joined



The Late Miss I. K. Nash

(Taken recently with some of her women at Touggourt.)

me for a few years at Miliana. There, I watched her patience and perseverance as she went morning by morning to teach teenager girls desiring to read Arabic.

Miss Nash returned to England (this year, ill) and very overtired partly perhaps due to the fact that, in addition to her work on the Station at Touggourt, she had been caring for Mlle. R. an Italian friend staying

with her, who became broken in health and who must have caused her great anxiety.

Miss Nash's experience in Algeria represents some 51 years most of which was spent with A.M.B. In 1944, she opened a new desert station in Touggourt to begin work amongst the Arab women and girls. Touggourt is a charming town and an important centre surrounded by its oasis of date palms.

A few years ago, three of us, Miss Russell and Mlle. Guibé and I flew down there to investigate a house built by Mlle. R. who was then offering it for sale to A.M.B. It is the most original house I have ever seen. Planned for the intense summer heat of Touggourt, it has a large school-room opening onto a quiet road, where the young girls could come without crossing the busy market place. We were invited to join the class of about 40 Muslim girls. One class was made up of the Arab girls and children of the neighbourhood, and the other of the freed slave girls, who came from the quarter set apart for their forefathers, after they were given freedom by the French Government years ago.

It grieved us to see the colour bar question even there, for one young Arab girl was indignant when asked to sit on the same bench as the darker girls, who were as bright and as graceful as herself. The best part came when they all joined in singing Arabic choruses and reciting the parable they were learning before listening quietly to the short message given. We saw their love for Miss Nash, and her quiet authority over such a mixed class and variety of ages was an example. From 13 down to the little ones struggling to thread

their needles to keep to the design prepared for them.

Those who have followed our Magazine "A Thirsty Land," will remember no doubt, the constant requests for prayer for two girls, referred to by Miss Nash as Special I and Special II. These girls were drawn by her ministry in their homes, to read their Bibles and to believe the Truth as it is in Our Lord Jesus. When they married later, each bravely witnessed to husband and in-laws and Ida had the joy of being welcomed to more and more new homes in Touggourt. These Arab friends may now be in different towns, but how grieved they will be when they hear that their friend can no longer visit them nor send the carefully thought out letters to help them in her absence during the summer months.

Our Station at Touggourt now stands empty, but God will not forsake His own and He can 'call' others to carry on. To such I would say — Arabic and French can be begun at once in preparation, as I saw from books on W. H. Smith's book-stall, entitled "Teach yourself French" and "Teach yourself Arabic."

P. M. Russell

"ALL FOR OTHERS"

It is now a year since our dear Miss Mabel Wood went to be with Christ. Shortly after her passing, Miss Ida Nash and I were talking about her together, and Miss Nash heartily agreed with me when I suggested that the three words: "All for Others" might easily have been her life motto.

Miss Mabel was an indefatigable traveller to the end, and would have

gone anywhere to be of use to anyone, I am convinced. But, she came to stay with us in Miliana, in the Summer of 1935, I, as a young woman, was sent to meet her bus. As the car drew in she handed me a small attaché case, through the window. That was the extent of her luggage . . . On that visit, she helped me organize a little treat for the children who came weekly to a class held in a hired room outside the town. She kept an eager crowd at bay, while I hastily pinned up the pictures which the little ones would later be choosing. From that day forward, she was constantly sending us gifts of pictures, pencils, painting-books and pocket handkerchiefs for the native children. The new born infants were not forgotten, either, for she made wonderful little baby-shoes out of old felt hats.

Miss Mabel had a theory (embarrassing to us, younger ones) that nothing was too good for a missionary. I recall the time when she wanted to buy her sister a piano. The Mission being unable to do so at the time, her substantial money gift found its way into the General Fund and nothing more was said about the piano . . . until brighter days dawned.

She was the ideal companion for anyone suffering from frustration, as I discovered in the Spring of 1956, when it took me over six weeks to obtain the necessary visa to re-enter Algeria. My frequent and fruitless visits to the French Consulate, in London, were made bearable by the fact that Miss Mabel could generally be found at her Club, the Central Y.W.C.A. which was only a stone's throw away. On one such occasion, she took me up into the lovely roof garden of Derry and Tom's and con-

fronted me with a sumptuous tea, which she, herself, scarcely touched.

How much we now miss her friendly cards of greeting, as the seasons of Christmas and Easter come round . . . The memory of her life is fragrant to us, and Mademoiselle Guibé is proud to feel that she was the last missionary from the Field upon whose arm Miss Wood leant for support.

P. M. Russell
and
J. Guibé

BLIDA
July - September, 1962.

For months, now, we seem to have been "sitting still and saying nuffin" like Brer Rabbit in the children's books of our childhood.

Conditions were such that it was impossible to leave the property, even for a night. Business took us to Algiers, however, once a week through-out the quarter. The general deadlock made it almost impossible to carry anything through to completion and sometimes we felt as if we were spinning round in circles.

Over twenty English lessons have been given to Kh. a former classboy, who has been working in the garden, during the holidays. We read together from the New English Bible, the parables contained in Luke's Gospel. He first read out, aloud, in Classical Arabic, the passage to be studied, for his English vocabulary is extremely limited . . . As a final test, he was told to learn one of the parables by heart and recite it to us. He chose the Barren Fig Tree . . . Was it because it happened to be the shortest? or because we had explained that the fig tree typified Israel?

We visited the station of Miliana

in July and September, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Isaacs of Emmanuel Mission and are grateful for their valuable help, on both occasions.

We have called upon European and native Christians who are facing trials and difficulties of every sort, or are lonely and apprehensive for the future. Our valiant pastor, Mademoiselle Schmidt, returned from France at the beginning of September, so we no longer feel any responsibility for the European believers. In the light of present events, Our Lord's words to His followers take on new meaning :-

"Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where thieves break in to steal it. Store up treasure in heaven, where there are no thieves to break in and steal."

(Matt: VI. 19, 20. N.E.B)

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Report of Executive Secretary and Treasury

Algiers, 25th September 1962.

(This report was to have been read at the Annual Meetings
3rd October, 1962.)

We have just passed through a most extraordinary year in Algeria. It has been more unusual than any of the previous seven years of the French-Algerian conflict. Many of you will have read in your newspapers, heard on the radio, or seen on television, some of the eventful history which has been made in this country during the past twelve months. There is no need to go over the details now, but we were all shocked by the extremely numerous

criminal acts committed. These were surely evidence, if it were needed, that the heart of man is desperately wicked until by God's Grace alone it is cleansed.

To us it has seemed at times as if the intrigues and divisions would never end. But at last relative order and peace seem to have been restored. As I write this report the first elected parliament of the new State of Algeria is assembling in this city for its opening session. A responsible government is on the point of formation. Please keep on praying for the leaders, as well as for all the people, of Algeria.

We must realise that Algeria is not now French, and is therefore no longer in any way under the control of the French Government. It has risen to take its place as one of the most important African member-states of the United Nations Organisation. For all the years of the existence of our Mission we have worked under French authority. Now a change has come. We must, with priority, adjust our thoughts, our words, and our acts to the new situation; we no longer work in a territory under European control, but in an independent Algerian State.

Now to turn to the Mission and its work. During the past twelve months less mission work has taken place on our Algerian field than for many years. This sad state of affairs has been partly due to the many interruptions over the whole of the period (although not in every place at the same time) due to the prevailing military and political situation. It is also partly due to the fact that we have had fewer missionaries at work on the Field than for a long time. For six months (November 1961 to May 1962) there were twelve; du-

ring the remaining months the number was below twelve. In consequence of this, of the eight centres which have been occupied in recent years, one (Tlemcen) was closed for the whole of the year, while two others (Touggourt and Miliana) were each open for only about six months. Our five other stations (Algiers, Blida, Relizane, Setif, Toiga) were open for most or all of the time, even if a full programme of work was not possible.

On the whole it is true to say there were fewer classes and meetings, fewer callers at Mission houses, and less visiting in homes, than in a normal year, or in any of the preceding seven years. There was practically no colportage or literature distribution, apart from one visit to the Bou-Saada district. But when and where work was possible there were signs of encouragement.

We must place on record our gratitude to Almighty God that nothing of serious consequence has affected any of our members during this very troubled period, with the exception of Mademoiselle Chollet who was accidentally wounded in the leg by a bullet at Setif early in the New Year. She has made good progress in recovery. Miss Wood, as you know, had to leave the Field for England with a fractured leg and arm after a fall in El-Biar in June. We are glad to note her recovery so far, after hospital treatment.

Our numbers have now been depleted by the Homecall of Miss Nash, who died in England on 25th August. We rejoice that she is at rest with her Lord, but her passing leaves a gap in our ranks. Miss Nash had served for 46 years as a missionary in the A.M.B., mostly in Algiers and in Touggourt.

The Reverend and Mrs. Waine have found it impossible for family reasons, to return to the Field following furlough, and are remaining temporarily in England, where Mr. Waine is now fulfilling a ministry at a missionary training college. Miss Gow is at present in Scotland on furlough, while Miss Grautoff is also at present in Britain.

The resultant position on the Field is that (if we include Madame Lull, who is on the point of returning to her station) there are at present only eight A.M.B. missionaries at work. Only five stations are manned, two of these by only one person, and the other three by two each. The prospects of re-opening the other three centres for regular work seem extremely doubtful, the reason being lack of personnel. Even if internal conditions in Algeria favour a resumption of our work in all areas—and they may well do so—we still have the great handicap of so few missionaries. It will be impossible for work to be maintained on anything like the previous scale, and still less possible to undertake any fresh work.

It is perhaps not inappropriate to note here that the A.M.B. is almost the only missionary society which works only in Algeria. Other societies at work in Algeria also have work in other countries. Therefore no other has quite felt the strain of these years as we have. For eight years our whole work has been in the context of the Algerian struggle for independence. This is possibly the main reason why we have declined so greatly in numbers and no suitable candidates have been forthcoming to join us. We cannot transfer workers from another field — we have none.

Due to the reduced staff on the Field, and the smaller amount of

work which has been possible during the past year, expenses have been considerably less than usual. Detailed figures are not yet available, but will be published later. In the mercy of God, much of our expenses continue to be met by generous legacies received from former friends of the A.M.B. We should not, however, be unaware of the Scriptural principle of prayerful, God-directed, giving on the part of those who are regular supporters, in prayer, of our work and are thus in a true sense fellow-workers with us.

What of the future? We are confronted with the necessity of a complete readjustment to the conditions of today, learning lessons from the past, but starting afresh from our present position.

The Executive Committee has been giving its attention to this matter, to discover how best to meet this challenge. We ask all our supporters to pray that we may be granted wisdom as we consider this vital matter. As soon as full assurance of the Lord's Will has been received in respect of any step to be taken, our friends will be informed so that together we can express our thanks to God and render praise to His Name. We look to Him to give us explicit directions for the continuation of His Work in Algeria.

I end this report by conveying warmest Christian greetings to you all in London, and elsewhere, from the members of the A.M.B. at present in Algeria.

Peter G. Longley.

Extracts from the Home Secretary-Treasurer's Report, which was to have been presented at the Annual Meetings in October last.

Regarding the United Kingdom finances for the past year, we give

God thanks as a Home Council that our income from subscriptions and donations, which total £1,123 show an increase of £268. over the previous year, whilst we also received the sum of £1,200 from legacies bequeathed to the Work.

The Council, however, have had to meet considerable increased expenditure due chiefly to the enforced return from the Field of Missionaries, and the extra expenditure thus caused in running Algiers House at Ealing, was increased by £992. Our Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit for the year ended 30th June 1962, of £546.

The increased demands on the Field have also necessitated us remitting large amounts to Algiers.

We thank our friends for all their support financially, and are confident that they will continue to remember our great needs in their prayers for the Mission.

And now, a brief word about Algiers House in Ealing which, as you know, was officially opened in July 1959, as a home for missionaries on furlough, and which has been fully serving its purpose, for there have been missionaries on furlough from other evangelical societies besides our own.

The Societies represented have been The Borneo Evangelical Mission; The Bible and Medical Missionary Fellowship; The Children's Special Service Mission and additional ones from America, Switzerland and New Zealand.

We thank all those who have had a prayerful interest in the home side of the Work, and for their faithful support. We ask you to continue praying with us, that His Will may be done in all things, as one seeks to serve Him here.

D. B. Edge.

PRAYER CYCLE

“ Emmanuel — God with us.” Matt. 1, 23.

Monday:	Algiers	Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Longley. Miss I. B. Gow (on furlough). Miss V. Wood (temporarily in England).
Tuesday :	Blida Miliiana	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 and family (temporarily in England).
Friday :	Sétif	Mlle. G. Chollet.
Saturday :	Tolga Tougourt	Madame Lull.
Sunday :	London Centre	Miss D. B. Edge and Missionaries, including Miss V. Wood and Miss M. D. Grautoff, at Algiers House.

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

