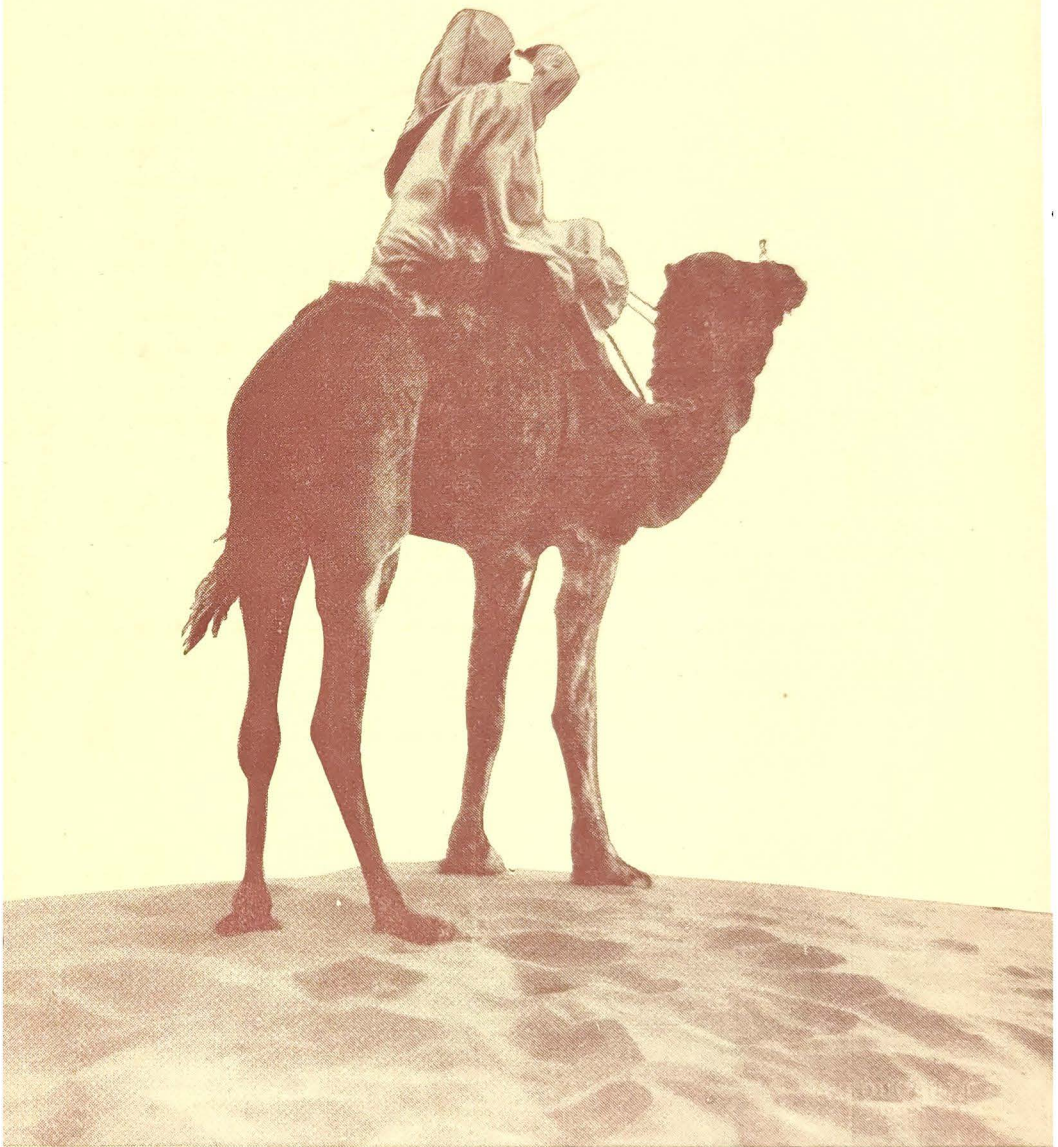


A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

No. 147.

MARCH, 1964.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter

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A THIRSTY LAND

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Algiers Mission Band

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No. 147

MARCH, 1964

At Eastertide —

“ He said unto them, Why are ye troubled ? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts ?

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24 : 38, 39, 44 & 48.

Editorial Notes

WE have been glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Longley while they have been on furlough in England during the winter months, and we wish them every blessing in their work as they return to Algiers, shortly.

* * *

There have been several more requests lately, for copies of “ *Parables of the Cross,*” by I. Lillias Trotter, with which we have not been able to comply, unfortunately, owing to a shortage of supply; but, enquirers will be pleased to know that the book

is now in the hands of the Publisher, though the new edition will not be available for circulation for about three months.

We are continuing to accept orders, however, and are making a note of names and addresses, so your copy will be despatched to you immediately it is to hand.

The booklet “ *A Challenge to Faith,*” also by the late Miss Trotter, is now available in its new edition, price 3d., (5½d. post free).



**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY & TREASURER**

MARCH 1964

During the past year and a half Algeria has been endeavouring to settle down to its newly-gained status of an independent state. This period has not been without its difficulties and problems, and many readjustments have had to be made by almost everyone in the country. Nevertheless we can give praise to our Lord that it has been possible to maintain the ministry and witness of the Mission.

It must be regretfully stated however, that the gradual reduction in the number of A.M.B. missionaries serving on the Field has continued. Mademoiselle Chollet resigned from the work early in 1963, mainly for health reasons, and returned to her own country — Switzerland. After serving for twelve years together at Relizane, the Misses Clark and Powell left for England on retirement in September, and are now happily settled in Yorkshire. Miss Grautoff spent several months of 1963 in Algeria, but returned to England and is living in retirement in Sussex. She had served for 56 years as a member of the Mission in Algeria, almost all of that time at Miliana.

These departures mean that three stations—Miliana, Relizane and Sétif—have been left without resident missionaries, in addition to Touggourt which has been closed for missionary work for the whole of the period. The only centres still manned by A.M.B. missionaries are Blida, Tolga and Algiers. Work has continued steadily at these three places.

We learnt with regret of the Home-

call on 11th September, 1963, in Denmark, of Miss A. Krebs, a former missionary of the A.M.B. Miss Krebs, a talented linguist, came to North Africa in 1910 and served for about 15 years, mainly at Tozeur in Tunisia, and in Algiers, until ill-health caused her return to Denmark.

As no suitable recruits have joined us during the past few years, we have been compelled to realise that the A.M.B. has become a group much smaller numerically than ever before. This fact has meant that much thought has had to be given to the future of the work. We are pleased to report that, after prayerful consideration, an important step forward was taken about a year ago. This was the beginning of a very close co-operation on the Field between the Algiers Mission Band and the North Africa Mission—two missions which have worked side by side in North Africa for more than 75 years.

One of the first results of this co-operation was the re-opening of the A.M.B. centre at Tlemcen. Two members of the N.A.M. took up residence there in February 1963. Until September 1963 there was also happy co-operation between the A.M.B. missionaries at Relizane and the N.A.M. team in Oran. In the city of Algiers there has been considerable co-operation between the two missions—in visiting homes, in work among children and in the Bible Correspondence Course ministry. All this has proved fruitful. The two missions are now considering ways in which to widen the extent of this co-operation.

On the material and financial side we are continually amazed at the generous provision made by the Lord

for our needs, which have been more than met. A summary of receipts and payments for the year ended 30th June 1963 will be found on a later page.

We would like to take this opportunity of assuring all friends and prayer-partners of the A.M.B. that the missionaries on the Field are extremely grateful to those who support the work in any way, and send prayerful greetings in the fellowship of the Lord.

PETER G. LONGLEY.

*P. M. Russell &
J. Guibé*

BLIDA

(October-December, 1963)

The month of October went by, chiefly, in directing house repairs. Mademoiselle Guibé spent a week in Sétif, seeing to the stopping up of cracks in the walls of the Mission house and immediately upon her return, work began on our roof. Now that the European builders have left the country it really is a case of directing the workmen oneself. We have been surprised and touched to find that the very men who seemed surly and ungrateful, formerly, are proving loyal and faithful friends to us, now.

At the beginning of November, we were invited to the Annual Spiritual Retreat of the North Africa Mission, being held in Dar Naama. It was the ideal preparation needed before embarking upon the Autumn's work.

After waiting upon God, with others, we had the encouragement of seeing the attendance of double the number of girls in the classes, as compared

with the previous year. When it came to the boys, there were about four times as many. The children all seemed at ease and ready to answer questions. We were dealing with the opening chapters of Genesis and had been given a series of picture cards to illustrate the lessons. These cards were offered to anyone who answered correctly. Of course, the bright pupils lost patience when we tried to give the duller ones a chance to win a picture. On one occasion they ran out, yelling their annoyance in a most unseemly manner and we promptly cancelled the next class. A few discreet visits were made to their mothers, giving our side of the story . . . Strangely enough, that same week the Boys' class also had to be cancelled, but for a different reason. Big brothers appeared and tried to force an entrance, throwing stones and generally threatening to break everything, if thwarted. More discreet visits were made and we did not hide our astonishment that big boys should try to force an entrance into what really amounted to an Infants' School. It did not occur again, though they have found other ways of annoying us, this year.

When the time came for the Christmas treats we were most fortunate to secure the willing help of missionaries of the N.A.M. Miss Marjorie Ballard spoke to both groups of girls and you could have heard the proverbial pin drop as she shewed them a flannelgraph of the Christmas story. Then, on December 22, Mr. and Mrs. Don Rickards and family came over for the Boys' class. The boys were so surprised to have a man teacher, for once, that they sat open mouthed with astonishment.

Our hearts are full of praise as we

see the Lord fulfilling the promises He made to us, last June :—

“ I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them and not forsake them.”

(Isa 42 : 16).

*Miss Ballard writes :—*It was such a joy to be in Blida and such a stimulus to prayer to participate in the girls' classes. Since my visit I've often seen in my mind's eye the faces of the girls as they listened to the Christmas story. There was one girl who was listening so intently and I had the impression that the seed was falling on prepared ground. How important is the week by week teaching. Another thing that impressed me was the good spirit that was manifest as the girls received their gifts. Often we hear complaints but there was none of that; instead, real gratitude. This shows that the spirit of love which pervades the home has penetrated and influenced these children.

M. Lull.

TOLGA

(October-December, 1963)

(A translation from M. Lull's article.).

Upon our return from France, the work began again in earnest.

Ten senior girls (from a class now reduced to eight, owing to the marriage of one and the departure of another) come very regularly three afternoons a week to learn sewing, knitting, child-welfare and domestic economy. They are in two divisions, each having its own separate programme. The Bible les-

sons are followed without enthusiasm.

The Tuesday school (formerly held on a Thursday) is very well attended by 60 to 80 girls. This is why I have divided the class, taking the little ones in the morning and those who are slightly older, in the afternoon. We are using the lessons given in the periodical "Grain de Sènevé," which are very suitable for children. They love sewing, knitting and playing games. When they are all together on Sunday afternoons and the Bible lesson is over, we go for a long walk . . . for these children never go for walks on their own.

The European Sunday School held in the morning, was depleted, because one of the children remained in France after the holidays. However, a Roman Catholic child has been entrusted to me by his parents and by the White Father in Biskra. So the number remains the same — three boys.

Our contacts with the population are many. Twice a week, my daughter, Danielle helps me to receive nursing mothers at the dispensary, and to distribute milk to undernourished children. This is interesting work because of its usefulness; the gratitude of the 300 mothers is touching to behold. The milk is given by the Christian Committee of Service in Algeria. (C.C.S.A.)

Our Christmas fêtes took place, as usual, Kouider installing the Christmas tree. On Christmas Day, 100 little girls expressed by their singing, the joy of Christmas and appreciated the toys sent to them, as last year, by the MacAll Mission in Paris. Thanks to the generosity of Swiss and French friends, sweets and oranges were distributed to the 110 boys who came to their fête and also

to 200 other little girls and former pupils who are always so happy to visit us, at Christmas time. Christmas was truly the fête of joy and thanksgiving.

The work recommenced on January 3rd and the girls are coming in as large numbers as before Christmas. Many women and men, also, are coming to have letters written for

them to the authorities, demanding the continuation of the payment of their family allowances.

This New Year will be another year of grace, if your intercessions continue to uphold us.

We would add that the boys heard the Christmas message, in Arabic, by means of a tape recording, very kindly prepared for them by Mr. Adams (N.A.M.) and Si M'Barek.

D. B. Edge

A TE DEUM TAPESTRY

The Lesser Light

In Nature, the Moon is the lesser Light ordained by God to rule the night. In Psalm 89 : 37, she is called : " A faithful witness " in heaven, and as such she a similitude of what the Church is when she faithfully reflects Him Who is " the Faithful and True Witness." (Revelation 3 : 14).

" Ye are the light of the world," said our Lord to His disciples (Matthew 5 : 14). " The children of this world " cannot see Christ, but they can and do see Christians. These are therefore bidden to " shine as lights

in the world (Philippians 2 : 15) and show forth the praises of Him Who has called them out of darkness into His marvellous Light." (1 Peter 2 : 9).

From " RULERS OF THE NIGHT."
with acknowledgments.

* * *

" Conscious weakness, as a preparation for service, is one thing : brokenness is another. We may know that we are but earthen pitchers, like Gideon's, with nothing of our own but the light within, and yet we may not have passed through the shattering that sheds the light forth.

This does not mean something vague or imaginary, but intensely practical."

I. LILIAS TROTTER.

That the Excellency of the power may
be of God and not of us.

II Cor. 4 : 7.

* * *

" Christ, Whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-Star in my heart appear.
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect Day."

PRAYER CYCLE

"Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him."

Matt. 6: 8.

Monday:	Algiers	Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Longley.
Tuesday:	Blida	Miss P. M. Russell. Mlle. J. Guibé (Part-time Missionary).
Wednesday:	Miliaana & Relizane	Temporarily closed.
Thursday:	Tlemcen	Mr. & Mrs. F. Ewing (North Africa Mission)
Friday:	Tolga Sétif & Touggourt	Madame Luii Temporarily Closed
Saturday:		Missionaries on leave of absence in England: Rev. & Mrs. R. J. Waine Retired Missionaries in England: Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Buckenham, Miss. E. Clark, Miss A. M. Farmer, Miss M. D. Grautoff Miss A. E. Powell, Miss M. H. Roche and Miss V. A. C. Wood.
Sunday:	London Centre	Miss D. B. Edge Members of Executive Committee & Home Council.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1963

	£	£		£	£
BALANCES, 1 July 1962		828	ALLOWANCES TO MISSIONARIES		
RECEIPTS			Missionaries on the Field	960	
Donations for General Purposes	1,032		Missionaries temporarily at Home	299	
Donations for Support of Missionaries	136		Retired Missionaries	435	
Donations for Special Purposes	345				1,694
Sale of Literature	71		FIELD PAYMENTS		
Transfer from Legacies	3,199		Rent	228	
	<hr/>	4,783	Travelling and Transport	269	
			Lighting, Heating & Water	204	
			Postage, Telephone,		
			Repairs and General	169	
			Special and Personal	447	
					<hr/>
					1,317
			HOME PAYMENTS		
			Salaries and National Insurance	1,045	
			Rates, Lighting & Heating	248	
			Repairs	334	
			Postage, Telephone,		
			Travelling & General	372	
			Publications	229	
					<hr/>
					2,228
			BALANCES, 30 June 1963		372
					<hr/>
		<hr/>			5,611
		5,611			<hr/>

This is a condensed abstract to the nearest pound sterling of the combined Cash Accounts of the 'Algiers Mission Band kept in Algiers and London. Transactions in Algerian currency are included at the rate of 13.80 NF to the pound. Copies of audited accounts may be seen on request.

PETER G. LONGLEY, *Treasurer.*