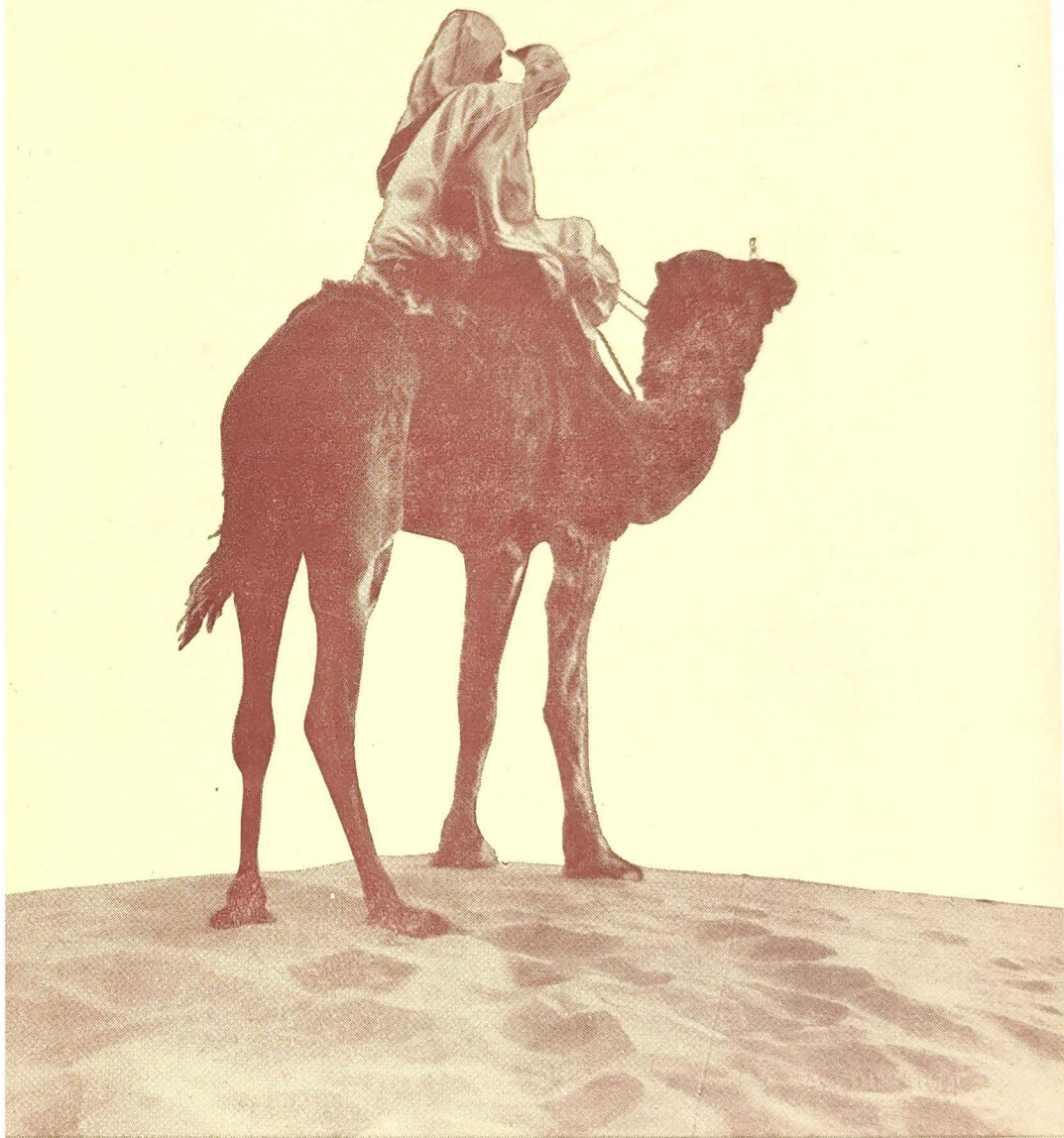


A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

No. 148.

MAY, 1964.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter

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A THIRSTY LAND

The Quarterly Magazine of the
Algiers Mission Band

Annual Subscription, including postage:

Three shillings and sixpence (Great Britain)

50 cents (U.S.A)

No. 148

MAY, 1964

Editorial Notes

AN 'all-sufficient Christ' has always been the aim of the Algiers Mission Band in proclaiming the Gospel message to the Muslim peoples of Algeria; first, under the inspiring leadership of its founder Miss I. Lillias Trotter, and so also by others over a long period of years in that 'Thirsty Land.' And, God has blessed the work.

There is cause to believe that, during the Mission's ministry, many souls have been won to Christ. Some may be 'hidden' Christians, afraid to confess openly to His Name, so often because of family persecution; but there are others who, proving Him to be the all-sufficient One, are standing firm in the Faith. How we thank God for these, and how they need our continued prayers.

The time has come alas! when for obvious reasons, and after much prayer and thought, the whole future of the Band has been under consideration, and in order to maintain the good work it has been found necessary, under God's guidance, to take steps to help safeguard its continuation.

The 'Special Announcement' to follow, also the Notes from the Execu-

tive Secretary-Treasurer in Algiers, deal with this more fully.

Meanwhile, as I take leave of you as your Editor for "*A Thirsty Land*," I do so with much sadness but in the confidence that, although it be the final issue in this its hour of destiny after a wide circulation for a great number of years, the work on the Field will go on, God willing, so long as doors remain open. But, *time is short* and Africa is in great spiritual danger as materialism takes hold.

God's knowledge of the future governs His shaping of the present. And so we commit the unfinished task to our all-wise God, believing that He will perfect that which He hath begun.

* * *

The Grace of Giving.

Once again, we express our sincere thanks to anonymous donors for gifts sent from time to time for the work on the Field.

Used Postage Stamps.

The collecting of used postage stamps (all kinds) progresses, and we take this opportunity of thanking Miss N. I. Berridge for all her help in this connection. Please go on sending your stamps to her at her new

address, for the sale of them brings in a cheque here and there. Her address for the future is:—

4a, Highfield Street, Leicester.

"Parables of the Cross."

We are pleased to announce that the printing of the new edition is now well under way. The cost will be 8/6d. a copy plus postage. A number of people have sent in their names and addresses for copies and we await your order with pleasure, though the book will not be available for circulation for about another month.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Following a period of prayerful consideration, the ALGIERS MISSION BAND and the NORTH AFRICA MISSION have decided to issue the following joint statement:—

"After more than 76 years of working side by side in North Africa, an agreement has been reached to co-ordinate as fully as possible the work of the two Societies.

"On the Field, close co-operation has already been enjoyed for some time. Now, the two Missions are to co-ordinate their representation in Great Britain.

"The May issue of 'A Thirsty Land' will be the final printing of that publication as a separate magazine of the Algiers Mission Band. All A.M.B. subscribers will receive, with their May copy, the May/June number of the N.A.M. magazine 'North Africa,' which will henceforth be the journal of the three co-operating Societies—the Algiers Mission Band, the Southern

Morocco Mission, and the North Africa Mission. Furthermore, as from July, 1964, all deputation work, missionary meetings and publicity will be unified.

"As a result of these arrangements, the work of the A.M.B.—now a much-reduced band of missionaries so far as the 'active list' is concerned—will not cease altogether, as might have become inevitable, but will continue in collaboration with a kindred Mission of identical outlook. Nothing of value will be lost: much will be gained.

"Believing that friends and supporters of both Missions will welcome these tidings, we take this opportunity of issuing an urgent call to prayer, that the Lord's blessing upon our fellowship in the homeland and on the Field will result in a strong Christian Church being established among the North African people."

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S DESK

The attention of all our readers has already been drawn to the Special Announcement printed in this issue of "A Thirsty Land." We ask our friends and supporters to join with us in giving thanks to God for having brought us to a decision out of the consultations of recent months concerning the idea of collaboration with the N.A.M., and to pray that it might result in a consolidation and strengthening of our forces in this day of opportunity.

In view of this collaboration, please note that enquiries relating to deputation meetings should in future be addressed to the office of the North Africa Mission, at 34 Bisham Gardens, Highgate, London, N.6. As from July, the joint magazine will be published

at that address, and sent to all friends of the A.M.B. until the expiry of their subscription.

Funds received in Great Britain for the work on the Field will be transmitted through the N.A.M. London Office. You are therefore requested to send all donations, as from July, to 34 Bisham Gardens, Highgate, London, N.6.

Gifts not earmarked will be used for the general needs of the Lord's Work in North Africa. Donors may of course, if they so wish, designate their gifts for any specific purpose. This should be clearly stated at the time of sending. If it is desired to contribute towards the support of any missionary or missionaries, this should be mentioned. In all cases, however, cheques or postal orders should be made payable to the North Africa Mission.

Friends who have signed Deeds of Covenant to subscribe regular sums to the A.M.B. will be informed in due course — before the next payment becomes due — how to make payment. Arrangements will also be made for the receipt of sums which may be bequeathed to the A.M.B. in the form of legacies.

Some of our readers may be wondering to what use the A.M.B. London Centre at Ealing will be put in the future. This is under consideration, and it is hoped soon to make an announcement on this matter.

PETER G. LONGLEY.

P. G. & E. E. Longley.

ALGIERS (EL-BIAR)
March 31st, 1964

We returned here on the morning of 17th March after our furlough in England. It is good to be present

at the regular Sunday services again. At 9 a.m. there is a service in English, attended by a few British and American residents of Algiers and two Tanganyikans who are studying at the University. At the same time there is a Sunday School for children. The Arabic service is at 10 a.m. Although only a few gather, it is a real cause for praise.

The Bible Correspondence Course office (which has been at Dar Naama since July last) has now been transferred to the south of France, from where all the courses for North Africa will be handled.

We were pleased that nine Algerian women—all of whom were personally invited—came to a meeting on the afternoon of Easter Sunday.

*P. M. Russell &
J. Guibé*

BLIDA

(January - March, 1964)

Grave problems and unexpected joys have been the keynote of the past three months. The Fast took place from mid-January until mid-February and some of the bigger girls stopped coming to class. The rest appeared to understand and accept our reasons for not fasting. The younger ones, however, led on by "Diamond" were in a ferment, though there was never any actual disorder during the lesson. We longed for someone to give us the clue as to what was upsetting them. One little girl, meeting us in the lane, cursed us both in turn, with flashing eyes, as one possessed. At the beginning of February, we closed down the class for a fortnight.

Then the Lord gave us a wonderful promise from John X. 16. "Other sheep I have, which are not of this

fold . . . *they* shall hear My voice.' We were reading from the French and it was a question of sheep, *they* was in the feminine. Immediately all our anxiety was taken away, for we knew that He was going to cause these naughty little girls to hear His voice. In March we graded the thirty children into two classes — perhaps an obvious solution to most people — and suspended "Diamond" until such time as she apologizes for her misbehaviour. Since then there has been harmony and new children have joined us.

Big boys were received during January and each week the numbers grew until we had fourteen of the worst young scamps our neighbourhood can offer. Most of them had come to us as infants, however. It was somewhat with relief that we switched over to small boys, in February. They came tumbling in, full of enthusiasm, as usual. One of them pressed a bunch of jonquils, still in bud, into our hands, assuring us that they would soon open up, in water. By the same evening we had a lovely display.

After the second Sunday in March, the brightest boy of the senior group, "Son of the Prophet" by name, said something to the rest which was taken up by the others. We could sense that they had chosen to side with the enemies of Our Lord, as we led on to the story of His Passion, with the aid of film strips. On the third Sunday, a boy began by spitting, deliberately, on the mat at his feet. The fourteen boys appeared to be listening, but on the way out "Son of the Prophet" wrote in white chalk on the inside of our front gate, equating our name with evil. This was the climax and we invited the small boys back in the

following week. Unfortunately, in their mistaken zeal, the little ones came an hour and a half too soon. It is not surprising that they fell easy prey to the stones thrown at them by the other set and only five remained to come in at the right time.

At least half of the visits paid in the homes consisted of long-distance trips. We had the pleasant task of distributing gifts sent by Miss Grautoff and Miss Wood to certain of their friends. Several Miliana families are now living on the outskirts of Algiers and we are happy to learn that one or two of the women sometimes attend the Arabic service, held at Dar Naama on Sunday mornings.

One Sunday afternoon in February, a near neighbour sent her little girl to say that she had visitors and would like us to join them at coffee. Such a thing had never happened before and we were still questioning the child when her father passed the gate and graciously repeated the invitation. Of course we accepted and were able, ultimately, to preach the Gospel to a group of women from a town on the plain.

We are in touch with two girls who are doing the Bible Correspondence Course, the first, in French and the second, in Arabic. Although about the same age, they present a sharp contrast, for the former is shut away in her home and the latter is completely unveiled and continuing her schooling. Our task is enormously facilitated by the fact that one of the girls has a mother who was in Miss Roche's class until her marriage, at the age of fourteen years and the other one has a dear old grandmother, who was likewise evangelized by our predecessors.

M. D. Grautoff.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

As we think of the necessary and advisable amalgamation of our Algiers Mission Band with the North Africa Mission, owing to our very diminished numbers and unoccupied Mission stations, we are sad to see the end of our 76 years as a separate Band. God overrules and we are thankful that the younger workers of the North Africa Mission are ready, or preparing themselves, to work among the Arabic speaking Moslems of Algeria — that vast country, with its rapidly increasing population, but no National Christian Church, to take over, as exists in some other countries.

In this article I want to put before our prayer groups, subscribers and friends the two specialities of our Algiers Mission Band. First, due to our gifted Founder, I. Lilius Trotter, there is the Literature for Arabic and French speaking Moslems. We all know of the parable stories compiled in the early days of the 20th century and how, by co-operation with the Nile Mission Press (now called the Arabic Literature Mission), they were translated into many languages. We have but to look at the two volumes of these catalogued tracts, at Dar Naama Headquarters, where we can count more than 70 of them, written and published by our Literature Committee, down the years. Our secretaries there could have told of the many orders that came from these, to Dar Naama, from all parts of Africa and where Arabic Literature was needed. Let us pray that the Spirit of the Lord may raise up others to carry on this work. Young people and especially the children are rapidly learning to read, and suitable literature for them is needed to counteract Com-

munist books and papers that will be flooding the land.

The second speciality was itineration. The biographies of Lilius Trotter show how she and her fellow helpers travelled all over Algeria and to the desert regions, which were then opening. Strenuous journeys they were, by mule or camel and which often entailed camping in tents. While spreading the Gospel message, she was also surveying for future strategic centres, in which to place Mission stations. Later, when young workers joined her, they were sent forth, two and two, to open these stations. After the first world war, when travelling by automobile and private car came into regular use, we, who followed on, had the benefit of private Mission cars and long distance automobiles to take us to the southern towns. Some of us made it a rule, each Spring, to itinerate for longer or shorter periods, in some new outpost.

I can see in my mind's eye, those stately Arab riders on camels getting down to pick up Scripture leaflets and tracts, dropped by us as we drove past. We pray that the time may come when such itinerations can be resumed and the literature distributed.

Meanwhile, and you must all understand how this is on our hearts, there is an itineration to be undertaken to the unoccupied stations, where lodging, cupboards of literature, pictures, organs, flannelgraph, cartoscope and blackboard stand idle but ready for use. An inner circle of women and children are there to welcome short visits, till the station can be once more open. New workers will be introduced, at first, by one or other known to our people. Then they will see they are not forgotten, but are being prayed for. We, in the home lands can share by

prayer and send support for intiner-
ation expenses.

There are the secret believers; the way is uphill for them but God knows His own and can bring a National Christian Church into being, in His time.

D. B. Edge

A. TE DEUM TAPESTRY

It becomes my task to pen these final paragraphs for "A Thirsty Land," and on what finer note could one end than on that of thoughts on praise and prayer. Praising our God for blessings past and present, both for our beloved Mission and for ourselves.

Praise and Prayer generally go hand-in-hand, or they should do, and
"Satan trembles when he sees

The weakest saint upon his knees."

The fact that our Mission has experienced so much testing within recent years, comes surely as a very real challenge to every Christian who reads these lines, and in particular perhaps, to all of us who have A.M.B. interests at heart. It brings us to our knees with a fresh call to more

fervent prayer in these days of rapid decline in the faithful presentation of God's Word; and to pray specially that more young people may be burdened with a longing to serve the Lord, and to offer themselves unstintingly for service, while doors are yet open.

"When the one great Scorer
comes to write against your name,
He'll write not that you lost or won,
but *how* you played the game."

* * *

It seems fitting to return our readers to the very first issue of "A Thirsty Land" in the summer of 1927, when Miss I. L. Trotter wrote the following at the close of her first article specially written for that number of the Magazine:—

"The Water of Life may yet be brought to the thirsty land, but it cannot be brought lightly: the lessons that we shall see in the water ways will shew us this. If the wilderness is only to be made to rejoice and blossom as a rose, it can only be through channels in union, cost what it may, with Him from Whose riven Heart the streams were set flowing.

Will it be worth while? Those will find out, whom God calls to the venture."
I.L.T.

PRAYER CYCLE

"My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."
Isaiah 55 : 11..

Monday:	Algiers	Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Longley.
Tuesday:	Blida	Miss P. M. Russell. Mlle. J. Guibé (Part-time Missionary).
Wednesday:	Miliana & Relizane	Temporarily closed.
Thursday:	Tlemcen	Mr. & Mrs. F. Ewing (North Africa Mission)
Friday:	Tolga Sétif & Touggourt	Madame Lull 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.