

Algiers Mission Band  
Journal




## Foreword


It is time we should make a new beginning. The long lapse has not been for want of things to tell, but for want of time to write them down. So will you be patient, our dear prayer helpers, & we will take you over the background as fast as we can... if possible in a series of three bi-monthly Journals, to bring you up to date with the present outlook, which, as 1920 closes, shines with many a fresh hope.




Dar Naama - El Biar - Augt. 26. 1919

Good news comes through today's post. The Nile Mission Press has given Mabel Grantoff a piece of work after her own heart - the preparing an illuminated Gospel of St. John. It is a wrestling of Islam against itself, by using designs from the lovely old Koran missals of the 13<sup>th</sup> + 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, to make an edition that can win its way among a class to whom our commonplace looking modern volumes seem of small account. These art-loving natives catch eagerly even at the scraps of decorative works that any of us have put in spare moments into the margins of their Arabic Bibles.

 Alice Mc Ilroy is back with a story of God's faithfulness to tell: the supply of all funds for her long round of "deputation" journeys: a goodly gift, over + beyond, for the Mission Funds: new centres alight with caring, + best of all, hopes of recruits. First among these are a M<sup>rs</sup> Buckenham + his wife, willing, if God so guides, to sell up home + business + find their own way out.

 Here, in black + white comes their offer today, God bless them. It reaches us within a month of the time when the cry for new labourers took voice.

It sent us into our Rally Days with glad hearts. They are just over. To me God's special word in them has been in Is. 33. 21 - "No galley with oars" - that is "no servile work of bondage + weary ever renewed effort" - "Neither ... gallant ship" with its trimming of sails to make God's wind fit our purposes like Jacob of old, but a content learned through much breaking up - a content to have our bondage loosed + our masts useless, + to "let His will enfold us" as the waters of the broad rivers + streams, + bear us just as fast + just as far as He will.

 Another of God's beautiful sequels. Our autumn Committee was just going to meet this morning with the Buckenham's offer on the Agenda, when down from the skies, so to speak, there dropped the promise of £100 towards starting the Men's work. Could any "Go Forward" be clearer!

Oct 14

Down from the bright horizon to the foreground with its struggles. They have been many of late over the matter of Aïssa's betrothal to Alamiya. Her brother has behaved outrageously as usual, and many have been the seeming deadlocks, However today they have been formally betrothed, without any Moslem rites, + the child given over into our keeping. We are placing her with Protestant Spanish people, in a farm in the country, + Aïssa stays on here, going down daily to his work.

Oct 15

In came our Blida pair tonight from their furlough, bringing the firstfruits of Alice M: Troy's tour - a dear new Short Service Secretary, only daughter of the Covans, of the Faith Mission... such a great trust, for she is not long out of school days, + such a gift, not only in labour lightening, but in all that it means of prayer linking with that blessed band of people through her coming.



Oct 20

Their first Blida news has a stir of life in it. Millicent Roche writes - "There seems such a "fear" on the people - a great rain - an earthquake - the end of the world, " etc. The girls, some of them, are doing a 3 days fast, + altogether there seems to be "men's hearts failing them for fear". But of course so much of superstition + tales of Sidi "his + Sidi that mixed up in it all. Oh to know how to help them"!

It was only a few days ago that a Relizane letter from May Ridley told the same story of strange misgiving + alarm among the people, +, as in Blida, with no apparent cause. It is this absence of reason in it that gives hope that it comes from God as a "shaking" of these inert Moslem souls - "A great shaking" was the first prelude to resurrection in Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. May it grow + multiply to that!

Oct 31

Mabel Grantoff writes again about Mimour, the quiet shy mountain lad who wants to come up here + learn - He offers to pay his fare up + to work for his food if we will have him.

Tozeur



Nov. 19.

The day of grace has come here again, thank God. It will not be a long one this winter, for Alma Krebs must leave for her furlough in early spring. She has just settled in, with Alice Mc Troy as her second, pro. tem. The date harvest is in full swing, + every one is in the oasis from morning till night. So though the number of visitors would be counted good in any other station, it is distinctly dull for Tozeur!



A letter again from Mr Buckenham, + a fearful one - He says "I know of two others whose hearts are stirred to follow.

"Both of them are far better men + more competent than I... if you would like the names to pray about, we will send." We can only say once more "Praise God!"




The November sunrises are like a faint glimpse of the walls of the New Jerusalem - such a jewel radiance of chrysochase green + topaz + sapphire... And as with these vivid autumn skies, vivid because of the storms that are gathering, the heavenly radiance seems to take on a fresh intensity as the last storms draw near. The words glow out, through the upheaval of this world's kingdoms "Ye are come unto... an innumerable company of angels, - to the general assembly + church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven... + to the spirits of just men made perfect - and to Jesus"... It is a distinct experience, it seems to me, this knitting in one communion + fellowship with this mystical Body incorporate, + with the angels + archangels who minister to Him + to us. Surely in these last days, for weal or for woe, the veil is wearing thin.

We fear things are getting very difficult for our dear pair of girls who came over the line last

summer. Luizeth seems a good deal upset + puzzled + evidently shaken by Moslem arguments that have been brought to bear. Fatima, her cousin, seems holding on the more steadily of the two, though she is by far the slower witted, + when they left us in September we felt that in her case the dawn was only breaking. Both need a strong prayer backing.

Dec. 1.

The Blida "fear" seems turning to the salvation of one soul long prayed for there — Fatima, wife of Saïd, our guardian. She dreamt that a fire began in one of the houses below, + grew into a huge conflagration, sweeping up the hill, nearer + nearer, + that in an anguish of distress she ran to the Mission house. (They live in the cottage just above) crying "let me in". She seems to have grasped the spiritual meaning, + to have really fled for refuge, in a simple way, to the Saviour of sinners. Praise God!

 To your letters are brightening. Alma Krebs writes. "I am on the roof, trying to rest after such a full day - 7 classes, Bible reading with Yusef, + seeing streams of people who had to have a few words before being sent off. I wish I had time to tell you about all the interesting things... what a place it is with all its resistance + all its possibilities. Babies begin to toddle in + are quite at home. There are days when one could use four ready, capable workers, working with all their might, to cope with all the demands... then there are of course quieter days, with not so much doing."

g) are + more she feels the need of a man + his wife: but that must wait till the house is sure.

and that seems still a far cry! Disegni, the Jewish landlord, is as slippery as an eel when we try to bring him to any point as to acting go. between with the absentee owner. Our "pourparlers" have been going on since the early days of 1914 + are no nearer an issue than they were then... We think he may have plans of his own for the site: it is a valuable one.



"The mistress of the dream" as the Arabs would say.



This afternoon came Sidi el Yazid, the ex. edporteur from Morocco, toiling up our long hill on his lame feet - his intelligent respectable face set with melancholy. He seems to have come only for the unburdening of his heart. "God talks to me + talks to me" he said. "every Sunday morning He tells me -

"Your brothers + sisters are meeting to pray, + you are selling in your shop! And then

"Satan comes + makes beautiful the gains of Sunday, + I cannot let them go. I know if

"I went to the Service he would be telling me all the time "Just think what you would be

"making in your shop...!" We talked + read + prayed for long without making any headway. Then I told him about Mr. Buckenham, who, just today, has been getting his furniture + stock valued, with a view to selling up all + coming out for their sakes.

"Oh I would like to leave all today too" broke from him: fetters seemed to fall from his spirit. I believe we shall win through for him yet.



Sidi el Yazid



Miliana has sent the lad Mimoun along. This is something like him - not much (nor are any of the would-be portraits)



Mimoun

He is specially difficult to draw from memory for it is a queer little round baby-face, expressive of nothing beyond vague astonishment at the world wherein he finds himself. He has never been in a train or seen a city before, + sat in a heap in the kitchen of M<sup>me</sup> Blanquard, the old gardener's wife, till by dint of her mother.

ing + coffee making he seemed to unroll like a hedgehog; + was able by the time Aïssa arrived at night to venture to the new room we had got ready for their joint habitation - almost the last of the unused resources of this dear house - a vaulted room next a toolshed, which latter they can use as kitchen + wash house, + an entrance from the farm stables on the other side.

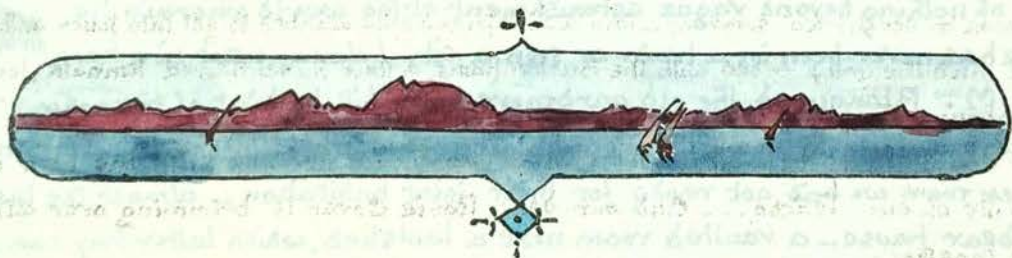


The year draws to its end with changes on our staff: (you will find the New Years list at the end of this Journal. One of our dear faithful Madame Arnaud (who has stood by us through thick + thin since the stormy times of long ago) has passed over to the other shore. And two of our War absentees have had to give up hopes of coming back. Mary Freeman from ill health, + Grace Russell from home claims. The third of our "prolonged furloughs" has closed happily in the return of Mary Watling from South Africa. She has hitherto been giving me much needed help up here.

Pierre Nicoud has passed his probation time with honour all round, + comes into the Band. Another Swiss helper, Augusta Buttica, who came to us at about the same time to give household superintendance down at Rue du Croissant, is entering her probation for full service.

And now on coming up yesterday - Christmas Day - after the meeting, a letter lay awaiting us from Mr. + Mrs. Miller, bringing their definite offer. They are one of the two couples of whom Mr. Buckenham wrote. He - Mr. Miller - has done Army work for several years, + seems full of energy + love for souls.

It is a solemn turn of the year, this time, for it finds us committed to a deliberate faith in God for our needs, instead of the old half-conscious trust. This committal means the needs be for a great nearness of Spirit to Him... more than that, a oneness of spirit. "The spirit of understanding... + of the fear of the Lord." And herein lies the blessedness as we launch out afresh





Here ends 1919





Tazear's best times have been centred round "The Bible Boy" as we used to call Mohammed Ali, + "Jacob's favorite son," as Alma names Yusef to veil his identity. She feels that the roots of these two are striking deeper this year. The former is the more fearless, + gets hard times accordingly, after which he sometimes stays away for many days together. And then there are the dear keen Jewish boys who have come day after day, headed by the twelve year old Mooshi, who would take no denial of an entrance last year.

 The Miliana lad Mimoun has gone back to his mountains with his face to the dawn, + already we think catching its first gleam. He is a quaint fellow, with a good deal of grit in spite of his child face: a slowmoving nature + so taciturn that it is difficult to be sure how far the inward movement has advanced... only movement is there, + that means life.

 These have been busy days getting ready for new incomers, + this evening has seen them safely landed... out of the shadows of the garden into the light of the skiffa appeared Mr + Mrs Govan, come, to our great joy, for some weeks rest. With them Moggie Smith, their nurse of former days, a dear Highlander, who had had a strange certainty that she was to see Africa someday - then a girl friend who wanted to get into touch with Missionary work, Edith Lamb by name. And the group ended with the Buckenhams, + their flaxen haired Kenneth, looking at the fresh scenes with his wondering two year old eyes.

From this first evening with them all, I feel that a new joyous note of faith has been sounded, which must tell on the walls of our Tericho... And our dear Rosie Govan is brimming over with delight at having home + Africa together.



Alma Krebs + Alice Mc Ilroy are back, with more news than could be given in the carefully worded letters from Tozeur.

I am specially glad over the fresh signs of vitality in that curious anomaly, Sabuc the negro. They come out in unexpected ways. For instance when she asked him one day about his little son - whether he had begun to read, he answered quite simply "No, I do not want him to get the teaching they get in the Mosque school". It came out with a natural ring of truth in it. He has still the old business like way of talking, only with more of a spirit, touch, it's great delight is in hymns. He still holds on to the assertion that he wants to be baptized, + we believe the day will come.


Yusuf is the same sad soul as ever, + holding fast in the same grim fashion, longing all the time to get a way from Tozeur. "When you come back you will not find me any more, he said, at the last. Alma feels it is probably true, but that it will be to the heavenly country that he will have gone, for he looks dying.


And lastly there is good news of Mohammed Ali, our sunny faced "Bible Boy". He has been coming out of the shell of his home surroundings, that seemed so to cramp his movements last year. The eldest brother who opposed him (the father is dead) has at last given him leave to do as he will, + the intermediate brother has been with him to hear, + seems open minded.


In their last talk, Alma asked him, would he like to become a teacher to his people. He answered in a very decided + straight way "Yes". He has a marked gift for teaching + a turn for music + poetry, + a winning way with him.

They talked together of what it meant, + there was no sign of seeking an easy path. He is planning to go off to find work in company with this second brother, + thence may come the break with his old life which would set him free to come to us here. If he accepts a part days study, + a part days garden work for his board a small

wage, it may be the next step for him.

 Two more rallyings have come to the prayer forces that God is gathering round us this spring. Last Friday week in came our dear Alise Kemp. She was the first of all the helpers that He has prepared for us out here, for we found her in the "Pension" where we landed 32 years ago. All these years she has poured out her intercession & her furthering without ever setting foot on these shores again. Now at last she is back on a long visit & a few days after her arrival Mrs. Michell, whose heart has longed unceasingly over this land since the 14 years of God's service out here in her younger days. With both of them the sight of it all face to face once more, will be heaping fuel on an already brightly burning fire.

 Yesterday arrived some unexpected guests. It was toward nightfall when they appeared. — Kacete, the Kabil schoolmaster who has stayed with us a few days now & then, & with him a gaunt, blue-eyed sister, & a pretty, birdlike little wife of 16. He has come up for hospital treatment, & has no place where he can safely deposit these two. He tried in vain for a room in Fawn, & finally came here to see if we can lodge them, as we gladly will. He is in an advanced stage of consumption, a mystic looking man — his face like a cameo in its transparent chiselling. He is only happy to lie quietly today under the arched throst buds of the Judas tree, waiting to see what evolves as to his admission to the Hospital.

 A lot of 20 or so came to the Sunday service this morning, on whom we think God's hand must be laid for salvation. Kamid is his name. He is a cousin of little Yamina of Beit Naama, & is the one who wanted to marry her in days gone by. They really cared for each other, but his father objected & still objects. We gave up hope & so did he — but Yamina is free again now, for they have succeeded in divorcing her



from the wretched scamp to whom Boujemaa married her two years ago. This lad Hamid has been serving in France on a labour gang + was in despair one day, the last of a contract, over the hopeless laziness of those under him. At last he prayed that God would make them work, + work they did with such a will that all was completed up to time. That night he had a dream. One appeared to him with brow + hands scarred. He said to the lad "Thou seest My Forehead + My hands: the scars are healed now, but the blood that I shed I shed it for thee: go as quickly as Thou canst to Algiers. He woke with a strange joy in his heart, + a fortnight later was demobilised + came to Bizit Naama, where Yamina + her mother explained his dream. He is a slow-witted fellow - we talked to him simply as to a child. at the end he said "I think if you talked to me for about 3 hours I should begin to understand!"




15 March.


Mlle Gayrai writes thence "I am much cheered - since my return I have had entrance into from 20 to 25 new houses. On Friday it was a rich house whose master was a much decorated officer - his wife was much struck. Then, next an indescribably dirty house - it was all I could do to stay in it - but oh how they listened, holding their breath: when I left two men who had also listened eagerly wanted me to take some coppers, + a woman unwound her head handkerchief to produce some other coins hidden there to add to the others. It was touching for they were very very poor"


Up at Mascara things are much more difficult: the powers of evil seem so rife there. Helen Freeman tells of a man, a victim of jealousy who left his house well + strong + was carried back in 3 or 4 hours a paralysed idiot, dreadful to behold. The wife sent for his brother who was in the hills, - he had hardly passed the city gates when he was set upon, + so knocked about that it is very uncertain whether he will live.

Miliaria is in full swing with 14 classes a week besides daily reading lessons. The native soldier

lads still come in little groups + spend quiet hours under the tree of the Spanish evangelist, reading, painting, practising the autoharp; and end with a Bible reading. Mimoun seems holding on to his ray of dawn - + to be trying to help with the Arab boys as doorkeeper.

 Another sign came yesterday to show that God is at work. Sidi el Yazid came up for a few hours to get a breath of fresh air; he looks haggard + has a bad cough. He had a talk out in the garden with Kacéfe; then he came up on the roof to see Alice Kemp, who has often interceded for him. In the end we had prayer, + then came an utter breaking down "O God I have wasted my life - I am as salt that has lost its savour + is nothing worth but to be cast out + trodden under foot", + he sobbed with those deep dry sobs that only come out of the depths of a man's heart. In all the years out here I have never seen a native moved like this. . . + of all souls this one would have seemed the unlikely for such a breaking down - in his imperturbable satisfaction with himself + his knowledge of the things of God.

 It is Easter Sunday, + we have made a new departure.. i.e. incorporating the Communion service with the Sunday mornings meeting instead of holding it at the end as heretofore. Mons Cook holds, + I think he is right, that it should not be a secret mystery for a few, but the outspoken shewing forth the Lord's death in the presence of all who choose to witness it - + that this spur to a definite stand on His side is needed by those who are Christians at heart, but have never yet asked for baptism.

 Among our spring visitors has come yet another very dear to all our hearts, Mrs Walker of Denver, U.S.A. She has been for years, as all will know from our title pages, the secretary for the American Auxiliary that has given us such faithful help ever since the spring of 1907. But how

she has laboured for us, not even we ourselves have ever known, + that in the midst of an intensely busy life, with 1200 Sunday Schools under her care. After long waiting for the way to open, she has got here for a year's stay, in which she is already doing "Short Service" personified in many new directions, with true American wide-awakeness to all the possibilities in the child-life around us which is her special study.

The Govans are giving us strong prayer-help, + many illuminating bits of talk on the best way of training workers. And at our present stage of starting out in faith on the financial side, their own story of a gay child-like trust in God in that direction, + its result in power set free, brings its message for us.

Their time with us is nearly over: they are due to leave at the end of this month, + Alice Kemp with them. Through a series of unlooked for unfoldings, it seems as if their ministry among us may close in their taking the lead in the spring Conference for Missionaries from Algiers + around which has been in abeyance since the war broke out. It will be a beautiful solution if it so comes, for for it will mean an intensifying of the prayer current for the land.

And in this gathering around us + behind us of fresh prayer forces, through all our newcomers of the spring we catch the echo of the Feet of God drawing near in blessing: for "prayer is revival in its first stage":

# Algiers Mission Band

## Advisory Councils

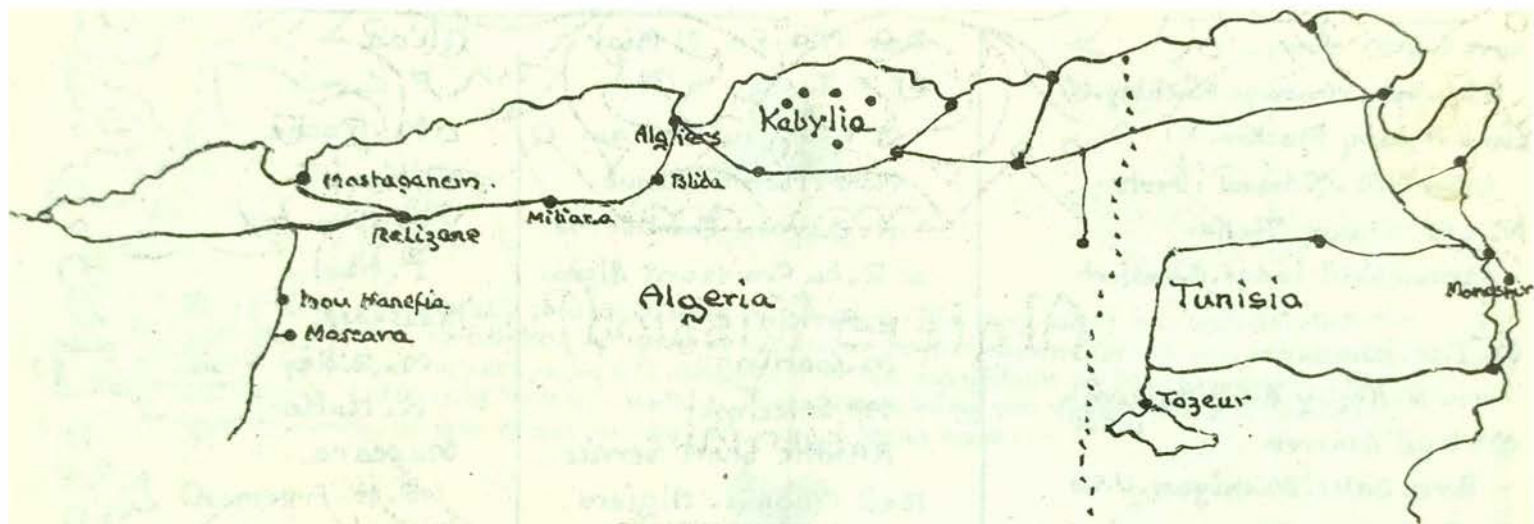
Rev. S. & M<sup>rs</sup> Howe  
 S<sup>t</sup>. Luke's Vicarage Finchley, N.  
 Sir H. & Lady Broctor  
 Ware Hill, S<sup>t</sup>. Anwell, Herts  
 M<sup>rs</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Stuart Trotter  
 Broomfield Lodge, Chelmsford.  
 . . . . .  
 M<sup>rs</sup>. T. W. Kinnear  
 1112 N. Negley Av. Pittsburgh  
 U.S.A.  
 M<sup>rs</sup>. Paul Warren  
 Three Oaks, Michigan, U.S.A.  
 M<sup>rs</sup>. Fred. A. Wells.  
 2306 Arrington Av. Evanston  
 U.S.A.  
 . . . . .  
Algerian W. M. B. America.  
 Sec. M<sup>rs</sup> T. A. Walker  
 Dar Naama El Biar, M<sup>rs</sup> Fern.  
Sec for Prayer Helpers  
 M<sup>rs</sup> T. H. Smeeton - 2 r. du Croissant.

## Location of Workers, Winter 1919-20.

Dar Naama, El Biar.  
 I. L. Trotter  
 M<sup>rs</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Buckenham  
 Mons. Pierre Nicoud  
 R. Gavan, Short Service  
 2 R. du Croissant Algiers  
 S. Perkin  
 M. Watling  
 M<sup>rs</sup> Smeeton  
 F. Brittle Short Service.  
 Beid Naama, Algiers  
 M. Farmer  
 A. Butticaz  
 Saint Eugène Algiers  
 Mons le Pasteur T. P. Cook  
 Madame Cook  
 . . . . .

Blida  
 F. Currie.  
 M. Roche  
 Miliana.  
 M. Groutoff.  
 I. Nash  
 Relizane  
 M. Ridley  
 K. Butler  
 Mascara  
 F. H. Freeman  
 M. & M<sup>rs</sup> Suler  
 F. Hamman, Mission  
 Helper.  
 Mostaganem  
 A. Gayral  
 Tazew  
 A. Krebs  
 A. M<sup>s</sup> Ilroy.

For the positions of stations see map at end, overleaf.  
 15



### Sketch Map of Algeria & Tunisia

A.M.B. stations named: other dots show stations under other societies.