



THE STORY OF THE  
NORTH AFRICA  
MISSION

## *The Growth of a Work of God . . .*

More than seventy years have passed since the first missionaries of the North Africa Mission set foot in Algeria. Let us pause for a moment to look back upon seven decades of the faithfulness of God.

Seldom can a major missionary movement have had so prosaic a starting-point. It was through the perusal of the morning newspaper that the vision came to Mr. Edward Glenny. This is how he writes of it:—

“It was early in the year 1881 that my attention was drawn to Algeria by reading an article in the *Daily Chronicle* which told of the way in which Algerian produce was sent to the London markets. It occurred to me that it might be possible to engage in business in Algeria and at the same time serve the Lord in direct work for Him there, as I had been doing at home.”

Mr. Glenny approached, and interested, his friend Mrs. Grattan Guinness, who recommended communication with Mr. George Pearse, a missionary-hearted brother who, as honorary secretary of the Chinese Evangelisation Society, had taken a prominent part

in sending out Hudson Taylor to China in 1853. Mr. Pearse lost no time in visiting Algeria, but he was unsuccessful in enlisting the help of either the French Protestant Church in that country or the Church Missionary Society in the homeland.

Nevertheless, through the zealous and able advocacy of Mr. Pearse, Dr. Grattan Guinness and Mr. Glenny, the consciences of Christian people in Great Britain became more and more disturbed by the knowledge that "in the vast area of country extending from Alexandria to the Atlantic not a single missionary is to be found occupied with the evangelisation of the native races," and about £500 was quickly contributed towards the launching of the new venture that Mr. Pearse was industriously planning. A small committee of management had been secured, two young men of special qualifications had come forward as missionary candidates, and a considerable number of friends had pledged themselves to support the work by their prayers and by their gifts.

The "two young men" were Mr. F. S. Zeytoun, a Syrian Druse, and Monsieur H. Mayor, of Algeria. Mr. Pearse had brought them to London to meet the "Committee," and he accompanied them upon their return

to Algeria, Mr. Glenny also forming one of the party. Mr. Pearse had already acquired a piece of land in Kabylia (the "highlands" of Algeria), close to the large native village of Djemaa Sahridj, and not far from the small village of French colonists called Mekla.

At its inception the work had been given the title of "The Mission to Kabyles," but as the missionary band grew in numbers, and Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and even Arabia were successively occupied, the ampler title of "The North Africa Mission" was substituted. Within nineteen years—that is, by the time the calendar displayed the novel date, "January 1st, 1900"—there were exactly one hundred missionaries in the field, one-third of whom were men. In due time other missionary agencies entered the spiritual arena, and it became possible for the N.A.M. to concentrate its workers in strategic centres in the "Barbary States"—that is, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

During the past half-century the effective evangelisation of these Barbary States has been interrupted by two world wars and seriously retarded by a grievous scarcity of young men candidates. We are praying that more will be forthcoming - from America and Canada, as well as from Great Britain. But

they must be men of the right calibre, with a faith and a courage matching the hardness of the task before them. They enter a territory where no spectacular victory has yet been won. However, those who pray, and give, and send, may be certain that in the day of harvest that is sure to come no partner in the work will be overlooked or unrewarded.

We praise our Heavenly Father with grateful hearts for the wonder of His grace and the faithfulness of his manifold provision during the past seventy momentous years. We count it high honour to be privileged to serve Him in one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. May He keep us faithful in every department of the work, but particularly in intercession—our hands “steady till the going down of the sun.”

Perhaps the writer may be pardoned for stressing the urgent need of generous-hearted giving in these days of ever-mounting missionary expenses. Too often we have sent out to the field woefully-diminished monthly allowances for our gallant fellow-workers. If we are already giving to the limit, perhaps we could still increase our contribution by interesting other Christian friends in this vital missionary work!

**THE NORTH AFRICIA MISSION**  
**was founded in 1881**  
**and has Workers in**  
**Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.**

- Its **OBJECT** is to make known among the multitudes of Moslems in these countries the unsearchable riches of Christ; and also to reach with the Gospel some of the 2,500,000 Jews and Europeans resident therein.
- Its **CHARACTER** is Evangelical and unsectarian. It gladly welcomes workers of suitable qualification who, loving our Lord Jesus Christ in all sincerity, and being loyal to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God, are prepared for His Name's sake to go forth in dependence upon Him for the supply of every need.
- Its **PRACTICE** is to rely upon the living God to meet the requirements of the workers through the free-will offerings of His people.
- Its **ACTIVITIES** are aggressively Evangelistic. Every agency is subsidiary to the supreme object of glorifying God in gathering out "a people for His Name," from lands which are enshrouded in the darkness of soul-destroying error.
- Its **METHODS** include Bible Depots, Colportage, Itineration, Medical Work, Schools, Scripture Translation and Visiting.

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