

# The N.A.M. News Letter

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EDITED BY E. J. LONG

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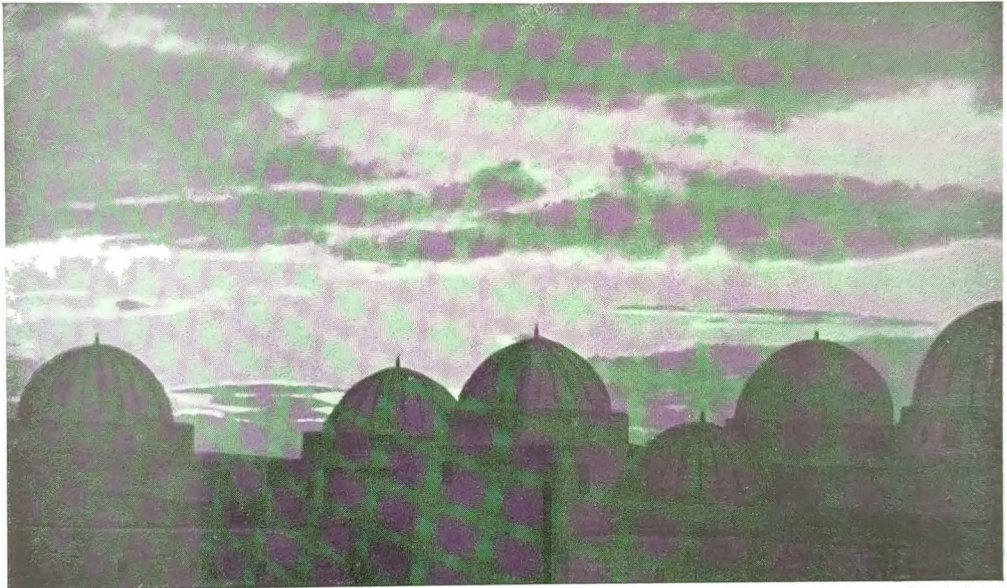


Photo by]

“THE NIGHT COMETH”

[E. J. Long

## *Watchman, What of the Night?*

**I**N a very real sense the missionary is Jehovah's "watchman." From his unique vantage-point he acquires a specialised knowledge of that salient in the "far-flung battle-line" to which the Commander-in-chief has sent him; and, returning periodically to the Homeland for much-needed rest and change, he brings with him valuable information that he alone can impart to praying friends at the home base.

He has thus a dual rôle: To lost souls abroad he is Christ's ambassador; to Christian friends in the Homeland he is the best possible interpreter of the need of the

heathen, the Jew, the Moslem, the Roman Catholic, of another race and clime. The missionary is the vital link between the Church at home and the Christless abroad: without him, lost souls out yonder will never effectually hear; without him, Christian folk at home can never intelligently pray.

We welcome, therefore, such opportunities as are afforded year by year at "Heightside" and "Slavanka" (the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems Prayer Conference) of greeting and interrogating our missionary brethren and sisters. "What of the night," we ask, "in that domain of Moslem darkness whence you have recently come?"

## Cross and Crescent

THIS prophecy of Isaiah (20 : 11, 12) has an application to North Africa which, though borrowed, is nevertheless wonderfully apt. "The morning cometh, *and also the night.*" "Night . . . morning . . . night"; is not that a summary of the country's spiritual history? What other country has known *two* such spiritual nights?—the night of Baal-worship; the age-long night of Islam; and, sundering the two, those golden centuries when the Sun of Righteousness arose, dispelling the shadows. Tragedy of tragedies, that night should ever have fallen again!

The missionary in North Africa is therefore not upon virgin soil. He is in a vast arena wherein, thirteen hundred years ago, an apostate Church, wrestling impotently against the powers of darkness, was flung to the earth and the life trampled out of it. Friends in the Home country can hardly be too often reminded that the herald of the Cross to-day in North Africa lives and labours amidst the ruins of churches that convey but one message to the Moslem—that Christianity perished for ever in that land thirteen centuries ago, and any endeavour to revive it is farcical, and foredoomed to failure.

When, if ever, will the Church of Christ fully awaken to its responsibility, recognising the reproach, and responding to the challenge? When, if ever, will the prevailing apathy and defeatism give place to real heart concern, to prayer focussed and fighting, and to a more liberal support of that faithful little band of devoted workers labouring out yonder in one of the hardest fields in the world?

## Gospel Radio Broadcasts in Tunisia

MEANWHILE, an item of the utmost interest comes from Tunis, where "a great door, and effectual" has recently been opened to the Gospel. Monsieur Paul Verdier, the converted harbour master from the Island of Djerba (of whom many of our friends will have read in Miss Tinling's book, *A Budget from Barbary*), was not long since promoted to Tunis. A keen Christian, and a gifted preacher, he obtained permission from the Tunis Radio authorities to broadcast the Gospel message (in French) on Saturday evenings; and for a number of weeks now the hearts of our missionary friends have

thrilled as they have listened to these etherborne words of life.

Hundreds among the French-speaking population of cosmopolitan Tunis will be hearing the Gospel who might never otherwise have been reached; for the radio message obviously gains the ear of such as would never darken the door of an evangelistic hall—the Jew, the Moslem, the Roman Catholic—besides reaching, we trust, the hearts of many that are unable or unwilling to read the Word of God.



Photo by [E. J. Long]  
Bedouin Grandmother and Child

We understand that Monsieur Verdier has just been called up for military service, and in the meanwhile Mrs. Stanley Miles (née Bureau) is continuing the broadcasts. She would greatly value your prayerful remembrance of her as she carries on a work that is charged with incalculable possibilities of blessing for thousands of souls.

We would place on record our very warm appreciation of the friendliness of the Tunis broadcasting authorities, and earnestly pray that the messages of life that are being transmitted under their auspices may bring the peace of God into many an anxious heart.

## “*Heightside*”

THE Easter Conference at “*Heightside*” last month was a season of happy spiritual fellowship and refreshment both for those who were privileged to gather under the Misses Wray’s hospitable roof as members of the house-party, and for the many friends who came from outside and swelled the numbers at the various gatherings.

The devotional ministry of Abdul Fady (Mr. A. T. Upson) and Rev. S. J. Henman, of Worthing, was deeply appreciated by all, whilst Mr. and Mrs. Bocking, of Cherchell, and the Misses Buxton and Reed, of Settat, gave graphic and most helpful accounts of the progress of the Gospel in Algeria and Morocco during the past few years.

At the little gatherings for prayer before breakfast each morning, as well as at the lunch table day by day, the work on the Field was constantly brought before the Throne, and we earnestly trust that our dear friends out yonder, missionaries and natives, may have been greatly helped through this intercessory remembrance.

## *Cheering News from Lafayette*

MENTION of “*Heightside*” reminds us of recent tidings from Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, of Lafayette, whose moving messages at last year’s Conference are still vividly remembered. Since their return to Kabylia last autumn, the Lord has been wonderfully answering prayer on their behalf, and signally rewarding their labours in the Gospel. A number have recently professed faith in the Lord Jesus, the first of them being the son of a native Christian woman, K—. It is greatly hoped that under such encouragement the mother herself will now take a bolder stand, and come forward for baptism.

Then, too, a woman who has been attending Mrs. Marsh’s classes for some years openly confessed Christ as her Saviour, despite the scoffing and laughter of the other women. Having been well known as an inveterate thief, this dear soul stands in special need of our prayers, that the grace of God may overcome the old propensity, and that the real change of heart and life may be manifest to all.

The Arab men’s meeting at the Hammam, which Mr. Marsh was compelled to give up because of persistent opposition, is thriving again, and one of the men has just professed

conversion. Let us pray that these hardly-won souls may now be “kept by the power of God.”

## *The Chaser Chased*

ONE final item of news from Mr. Marsh : Our brother was recently visiting a village where he had had rather a stiff time on the occasion of his previous visit, a year ago. The sheikh was so annoyed to find that Mr. Marsh had gathered a group of men and boys together that he lashed out at them right and left with his stick, chasing them away. Snatching from the missionary’s hand the Gospel chart he was using, the irate official flung it to the winds, ordering Mr. Marsh to clear out of the village and never to return.

Some of the men expressed their regret to our friend, and said that in a few months they would turn the sheikh out of the village. This proves to have been no idle boast, for when Mr. Marsh went once more to this Kabyle outpost recently, he found that the adversary had indeed been removed ; and a group of nearly forty young men and older boys listened attentively to the Message for well-nigh an hour.

Praise the Lord for graciously answered prayer, and for this season of refreshing that has come as a welcome relief after many months of up-hill toil. May the tidings cheer the hearts of our missionary brethren and sisters elsewhere in North Africa! “In due season” they, too, shall reap if they “faint not.”

## *Bedouin Babies*

Among the tent-dwellers of North Africa the perambulator is unknown, and the baby spends most of its day bound to the back of its mother, its sister, or even—as shown in the accompanying photograph—its grandmother. The heavy domestic duties of the mother allow little respite from the wee burden. Trudging to and from the well for the day’s water supply, digging up the coarse grass which, with its roots, is practically the only fuel in the semi-desert regions of the South, or toiling along the dusty highway in the wake of her Arab lord and master (himself comfortably mounted on mule or donkey-back !)—ever and anon the bedouin woman may be seen with her inseparable human appendage.

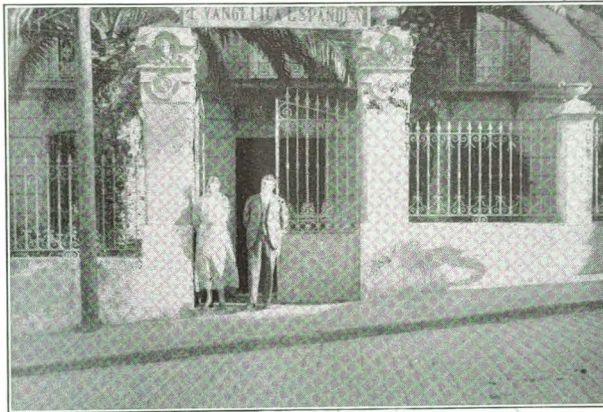
As often as not, the baby is asleep, its head hanging limply, its rarely-washed face black with flies—carriers of diseases that account for the appalling prevalence of eye-troubles, and of maladies that fill thousands of tiny graves every year.

Will you sometimes remember in prayer these sad-eyed mothers, as well as our dear missionary sisters that labour so lovingly among them?

### *Medical Mission at Tunis*

Dr. J. A. Liley's many friends in the Homeland will be glad to learn that his patience has been at last rewarded by the discovery of suitable premises for the long-prayed-for Medical Mission. Suitable, be it said, up to a point; but certainly sufficient for a start. Accommodation at the recently-secured premises is, we understand, rather limited, but there is every prospect of a more commodious Arab house becoming available in about eighteen months' time.

The launching of such a venture will make many demands upon our brother and his wife, and we are sure they would be most grateful for your prayerful remembrance of them. Under God's blessing, may many needy souls be brought into saving touch with the Great Physician Himself!



Señor and Señora Padilla at entrance to Spanish Gospel Hall, Tangier

### *The Spanish Work at Tangier*

THE accompanying photograph of Señor and Señora Padilla at the entrance of their Spanish Gospel Mission Hall was unavoidably crowded out of our last issue of THE NEWS LETTER. Its reproduction here affords an opportunity of reminding our praying friends of the peculiar difficulties of the situation just now at Tangier in so far as the Spanish work is concerned.

Recent events in Spain have had their inevitable repercussions in the Spanish section of Tangier. The recognition of the Nationalists brought with it such fear, and even panic, that many parents stopped their children from going to the Sunday School. Numbers are much thinner in consequence, and there is a prospect of fewer still coming in future days, as the children are gradually being obliged to join the different classes for military instruction.

It is gratifying to learn, however, that the adult meetings have not greatly suffered. Indeed, these troublous times have constrained many an anxious soul to seek at the Gospel meetings and Bible classes that "comfort and consolation" that the Holy Scriptures alone afford; whilst letters from Spain have revealed that some who went there hard and self-sufficient have now turned to the Lord in true repentance and faith.

### *N.A.M. Keswick House-Party*

AT the moment of going to press, we are still able to announce a few vacancies for the House-party during the Convention (July 14-24). Friends desirous of joining us should write as soon as possible to Mr. A. J. Deer, at the Office of the Mission, 34, Bisham Gardens, Highgate, N.6. Terms: 8s. 6d. per day.

### *A "Slavanka" Conference*

THE Prayer Conference arranged by the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems is to be held, God willing,

at "Slavanka," the Bournemouth Conference Centre, from June 9th to 15th.

It will be our pleasure to send Mr. L. J. Bocking, of Charchell, as the N.A.M. missionary representative. Workers from the China Inland Mission, the Egypt General Mission, the Algiers Mission Band, and other societies and agencies labouring in Moslem lands will also be present, bringing us up-to-date news and themes for praise and prayer. The state of international affairs, the Jewish outlook, and the solemnity of the times in which we live will doubtless widen the field of intercession at the forthcoming Conference beyond the limits of the Moslem world; and the King to Whom we are coming is on the Throne, and "waiting to be gracious."

Those desirous of attending the Conference (the terms at "Slavanka" are 8s. 6d. per day) should write to the Host, Mr. H. R. Lavington, 10, Belle Vue Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth.