

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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No. 16

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MAR.-APR., 1941



A NATIVE CRAFTSMAN, FEZ, MOROCCO.

In North Africa, land of many quaint paradoxes, the golden rule—the very opposite to that obtaining in the Homeland—is: Visit the man at his work, never at his home! Our photograph emphasizes the ready accessibility of the North African native. The artisan usually plies his trade in a little "cubby-hole" of a workshop open to the street, and is generally quite willing to "down tools" for a while, or chat with the missionary as he works. Some of the best spiritual contacts have been made in this fashion.

News from the Field

IN normal times this is the season of the year when we receive our missionaries' annual reports, covering the activities of the past year and bringing to our attention any outstanding items of an encouraging character. As our readers will already know, however, we are now entirely dependent upon Mr. Warren at Tangier for news from the various stations.

In a batch of correspondence recently received through this channel, we have been very cheered to read extracts culled by Mr. Warren from our workers' letters and reports sent to him; and from the abundant material furnished we have selected the following extracts as being of particular interest, and as supplementing information published in our last NEWS LETTER.

It is inevitable, of course, that there should be a certain time-lag nowadays in the transmission of such details from the field, so friends will not be surprised to find that several of the workers allude to Christmas meetings and festivities.

Once again our notes upon the work at the various stations are so arranged that we begin with Southern Tunisia and then pass westward through Algeria to Morocco.

GAFSA.—In a brief note concerning this station, now occupied by **Miss Brookes** and **Miss Kraulis** we learn that the New Year began very happily with a busy day in which a fresh contact was made in the native visitation, an Arab woman being discovered who *reads* Arabic extremely well. She is one of the family of a former Caïd.

TUNIS.—**Mr. Miles** has furnished us with a most breezy and cheering account of Christmas activities at Tunis, particularly at "Bethesda," where for so many years a thriving European work has been going on. The numbers attending the meetings were exceptionally large. **Mr. Miles** speaks of his great joy in addressing 200 women (most of them Jewish, we understand) gathered upon the premises of the Church Mission to Jews.

In their itinerating work together, **Mr. Miles** and his colleague, **Mr. Brown**, have had real encouragement. Their visits to houses in the Tunis suburbs have resulted both in splendid sales of the Scriptures, and in most helpful heart to heart talks. **Mr. Miles** adds the remarkable news that sales of Scriptures during 1940 exceeded those of

1939 by over 1,400 francs! May this record sowing be followed by an abundant harvest!

ALGIERS.—**Miss Margaret Ross** writes: "We have been coming into contact with more and more Europeans lately. Sometimes they come to us too. We ask God to use us and our home just as He wills. On Sunday our proprietor's sons asked if they could borrow the magic lantern as they had friends coming. The only slides we had were of Moses, the Prodigal Son, and the Lost Sheep. The boys knew the stories quite well and their mother told me afterwards how delighted they were to tell them to their friends."

CHERCHELL.—**Mr. Bocking** tells us that although the Christmas treats for the native children and others were not quite up to the usual standard, he and his wife and **Mr. Pearce** nevertheless had a busy time. A small Christmas tree helped to create the right kind of atmosphere, and our friends were able to give little presents to those among the native children who had been able to put in a sufficient number of attendances. On Christmas afternoon several native and French friends were invited to spend a few hours at "Dar en Nour." Owing to the growing difficulty in obtaining even the smallest ration of petrol, **Mr. Bocking** has been compelled to give up using the mission motor-car.

AZAZGA.—**Mr. Arthur** begins his report by giving us some idea of how the war is affecting him, both domestically and also in so far as his itinerating work is concerned. He says: "We are obliged to live quietly these days, going to bed betimes because of the electric light being cut off, the paraffin shortage depriving us of a source of alternative lighting. Nor can we travel far afield, for petrol is heavily rationed."

"At Christmas we had happy times round the Christmas tree. We were obliged to have two meetings and there were 80 present at the first and an overflow of 20 boys at the second."

"There was a surprising demand for Scriptures during the earlier part of the summer, and this has not diminished. Indeed, the Bible Society is beginning to face the problem of empty shelves, and renewed supplies. Whatever the future may bring, we can say that the whole of the country has been abundantly sown with the divine seed during recent years. Surely this will be followed by a splendid reaping."

DJEMAA SAHRIDJ.—**Mr. Willson** writes : “ The last visit to the out-station of Igoufan was most heartening. So crowded were we that it would have been almost impossible to get any more in. Ages ranged between 7 and 25 ; and so eager are some of the young men to hear the Word of God that we are having additional meetings here. Keep praying, for a big blessing is near.”

Although **Miss Widmer's** medical work has been much restricted she nevertheless obviously still leads a very busy life, with numerous patients to attend to, and quite a number of maternity cases to tackle. She finds that such work opens up homes and hearts to receive the Gospel.

LAFAYETTE.—**Mr. Marsh** writes : “ It has been a great joy to be able to continue to visit the Kabyle villages, and I have been reaching an average of 24 each month. Although most private cars are off the road, and petrol severely rationed, I am still allowed to use the car for the Lord's work, and am able to obtain the needed petrol. This seems to be in accordance with the policy of Marshal Pétain, that ministers of religion should be allowed to continue their work unhindered. I think he realises that France needs to return to God, and we are thankful to see a certain desire on the part of the Europeans to know more of eternal things.

“ I was recently asked by a Kabyle man, ‘ Why did you visit our village when there are so many others nearer ? ’ I replied that while in prayer the Lord had laid that village on my heart ; to which the Kabyle replied : ‘ That is because many of us here love the Lord Jesus, and want to know more about Him. ’ ” Praise the Lord for hearts thus touched by His grace !

MENAA.—**Mr. Cook** says that he and his wife are doing their utmost to make of the mission house a real *foyer* where young folk from among the Chaouia tribe can stay most of the afternoon. “ Although they love to play in the courtyard,” writes our brother, “ they willingly stay for an hour or more to listen to the Word of God. About eight or ten now come regularly to learn to read. We are hoping to set up a library, so that instead of spending their time in the café, playing cards, these fellows can come to us regularly. God has been wonderfully answering prayer, and the work is now in full swing and enjoying much of His blessing.”

TANGIER.—In his correspondence with headquarters, so faithfully and regularly maintained, **Mr. Warren**, with characteristic reserve, writes little regarding himself ; yet, reading between the lines, we can sense the strain under which his tremendous volume of routine work is carried on these days. Both he and Mrs. Warren are far from robust, and our readers' prayers are earnestly besought on their behalf that they may receive day by day the grace and strength and wisdom and patience of which they stand in constant need.

As we go to Press, an exceedingly interesting account of the Spanish work at Tangier comes from our brother **Señor Padilla**, of which we hope to furnish fuller details in our next issue.

TETUAN.—From this station in the Spanish zone **Miss Low** and **Miss Bradbury** write with their usual brightness and cheerfulness. The past year has been one of further advance. Many new doors have been opened for visiting, and the attendances at the Monday afternoon class for native girls are well maintained. Dispensary attendances for the year total 5,454.

FEZ.—We are so thankful to learn that our solitary remaining worker at Fez, **Miss Denison**, had such a happy Christmas. She tells us that a merchant sent a huge basket of fruit and vegetables for the Christmas dinner, which greatly helped in the preparations that she delights to make at this season of the year. Although there were 22* at the dinner, so ample had been the provision furnished by this generous friend that Miss Denison had no need to buy any further produce of the kind for about a fortnight !

[* Chiefly native friends, we gather.]

SETTAT.—**Miss Buxton** and **Miss Reed** have provided us with a very full report of the past year's work, from which it appears that although visiting has been somewhat restricted, the work among the children has been well maintained. At the close of 1940 there were 55 names on the register, and of these, 30 received prizes for good attendance. Regular attendance at the young women's class is also apparent, 10 out of 15 having received prizes. These young Moorish women have practically grown up with our Settatt friends, having been transferred from the children's class. Much of God's word is stored up in their hearts, precious seed that our prayer may yet help to bring to germination and fruition. Dispensary attendances

total 4,221, and this work has assured close and constant spiritual contact with many of the young women of Settat.

CASABLANCA.—Miss Winifred Ross would value prayer for six young girls who have been under teaching for two years or more. They now have a clear knowledge of the way of salvation, and our sister is longing that the Holy Spirit may bring conviction to their hearts and reveal to them their need of the Saviour.

Our final item of news comes from Miss Bowring, who, in common with our other workers, gives a glowing account of Christmas-tide blessing. She concludes her letter thus: "The happenings of our times are making many of the women think seriously, and there is evidence that the spirit of God is working among them. We shall be very glad of prayer for this particular part of the work entrusted to us."

PARIS.—The last brief news of Miss Elsie Tilney, reaching us via Geneva and Tangier, simply reported that she was occupying Mr. Warren's house at Paris, and that she was well.

We earnestly trust that our sister may be permitted to stay on there, without being disturbed.

"I want the Medicine that Hurts"

So said a boy as he entered the consulting-room of an N.A.M. Medical Mission.

He was suffering from very bad eyes, and was becoming blind. "I want the medicine that hurts." The missionary understood and said: "Yes, just take a seat." Then the doctor very carefully dusted a little white powder over each of the lad's eyeballs. Almost at once the eyes began to smart and become inflamed, and tears flowed freely.

An onlooker might have thought "Surely harm is being done, not good!" Yet, as the Scriptures assure us, "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*"

So here. After a few hours the tears had ceased to flow, and all the pain had gone. The happy patient could see much better than

before, for the passing *medical* inflammation had removed impurities, thus clearing the vision.

The Lord Jesus says, in Revelation III, 18—"I counsel thee to buy from Me eyesalve to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest see." Shall we not say "Yea Lord," even though it be a medicine that hurts?

Missionary work in North Africa is always difficult, and especially so just now. Yet our marching orders are: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Who will say "Yea Lord; I want whatever You think best—even the medicine that hurts"?

—From Dr. T. G. Churcher.

Deputation Secretary's Future

IN consequence of growing difficulties that our readers will readily appreciate—the closing-down of evening meetings in many centres, complications introduced by the black-out, rationing, travelling, accommodation, etc.—deputation openings have, during the past few months especially, greatly diminished.

The deputation secretary has therefore felt very definitely led of the Lord to accept a cordial invitation to the pastorate of Bethesda Free Chapel, Sunderland, for the duration of war; and his address from March 20th will be: 14, Thornhill Gardens, Sunderland.

Mr. Long desires that his friends should understand that this by no means implies severance from the North Africa Mission. He will remain in close touch with Headquarters, and will continue to edit the bi-monthly NEWS LETTER.

It is earnestly hoped that this publication will, until happier days return, serve to maintain the link between our many friends and Headquarters that was formerly strengthened by regular deputation visits.