

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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Photo by:

VILLAGE CHILDREN OF MOROCCO

[E. J. Long

The village life of North Africa is set amid surroundings of picturesque squalor that contrast strikingly with the drab and dingy dullness of similar poverty in the Homeland. The child-life of the villages is a gay and jolly and lovable feature. Strange that it should recall Millennial Jerusalem, when "the streets of the City shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof". The above snapshot taken in the course of a pleasant itineration in the neighbourhood of Fez, proves how readily the children cluster around the missionary and listen to the Gospel message. (In the distance, by the way, may be seen Mr. Carnegie and Mrs. Hermon Morgan.)

A Testimony Meeting in North Africa *

THREE of God's children had met for a little Bible study, and it was suggested that before the reading each should give a little testimony as to the way God had led them into the Truth. One had been "in the Way" for over fifty years. She could tell exactly the place, time and manner of entering in; all was as vivid as in the long past when the Lord had opened her eyes.

Then a girl of fifteen spoke. She had been in the Mission School, had often heard God's call, but had taken no heed—making fun of it rather. But one day she went to live with two Christian ladies who daily had Bible reading and prayer with her. Then she began to pray, and, whilst in the act of prayer, "entered in," born again of the Spirit of God.

Next, a young married woman spoke. She had not come that way. She had been visited in her home and had heard the Gospel story, but did not see her own need till she was sick and had stayed in the Mission Hospital. While there, she realised that she had a worse disease than the one for which the doctor was treating her. Then she had sought and found the Saviour and Healer of sin-sick souls.

Since that little gathering took place another of God's children has been spoken of. She was converted years ago through sewing-class work. Married early, and with a family to look after, she never managed to learn to read, but she did get a good many portions of the Word into her memory. The other day she told how the Lord helped her, but that she finds the day goes wrong unless she definitely gets a little while apart with Him each morning, when God brings a portion of His Word to her memory, feeds her soul, and strengthens her for the day's troubles and difficulties.

So pray on, friends—for the older missionaries, whose work is nearly done, as for the younger ones who are just starting out; not forgetting those on whose shoulders is falling the chief burden of the work. Prayer *does* help, and this wee testimony is written to encourage you to *keep on praying*.

* The writer of these lines wishes to remain anonymous.

A Moroccan Pen Picture

I WONDER if I might, in the absence of oils and water-colours, attempt a pen-picture! The subject is the *doyen* of a tribe, a man said to be 99 years old. We have been in occasional contact with him since 1932. He was, of necessity, nearing the "little child" attitude of Mark x, 15, so that only a step separated him from the Friend of little children. That step was taken in 1939.

His wife, still older, and less frequently reached, accepted the Saviour last autumn. Since then the aged couple have travelled Homeward hand in hand. *She* arrived Home first, two months ago. Perhaps the bells sounded a fuller and longer welcome by very reason of her qualifying at so late an hour as a candidate for admission! I do not know. Be that as it may, their echo reached us, and does still. She will not have to wait very long for her "better half."

Her aged sister graduated for admission recently. They used to sit together, these three hoary heads, in rags which failed adequately to cover their bodies, and share the morsel of bread that never fully appeased their hunger. Now only two remain. The third already wears her "white raiment" and eats of the "hidden manna." Blessed hope! Blessed prospect! The separation cannot be for long. *Maranatha!* The finishing touches of this sketch and the "filling in" will be better completed then!*

The Late Miss Daisy Povoas

WE learn with regret that news has been received by cable from Cairo announcing the Homecall, following a recent heart attack, of Miss Daisy F. Povoas.

A sudden stroke in March, 1941, had left our sister's health much impaired, but she was still able to continue her work among the children, for which purpose she had been granted prolonged leave of absence from the N.A.M. as far back as 1936.

A letter furnishing fuller particulars will probably be received in due course from Miss Povoas's sister, Mrs. Harvey, residing at

* The above is contributed by a worker in a lonely North African outpost. For many reasons she prefers to remain anonymous, but she would value prayer fellowship. Like some others, she is cut off from all accurate news; printed matter fails to reach her, and one hesitates to compromise her by giving details in letters.

12, Grasmere Gardens, Ilford, Essex; but we insert this paragraph now for the information of the many friends and relatives in this country.

Miss Povoas set out in October, 1922, for Alexandria, where she laboured for a time with Miss Hodges. She removed later to Algeria, where she was very successful in her efforts to evangelize the Moslem women and children of Tebessa.

News from the Field

At the best of times the summer months of "heat and burden" bring few letters from the Field, but in these days the news items are exceptionally—and understandably—scanty. Such tidings as reach Headquarters come in air-mailed letters from Mr. Warren, who always encloses carbon copies of his more important correspondence with missionaries; but since the original letters of the workers are, for obvious reasons, not included, their contents can only be surmised by inference.

Our workers are scattered over so wide a field that it is inevitable that their difficulties, privations and problems should vary somewhat with the locality in which they find themselves; but there are certain trials that are common to all, and which should draw forth our prayerful sympathy.

In the first place, many of our workers are not permitted to leave the *commune*, or district, in which they reside. This is a real hardship for many, as will be understood when we cite the instance of N.A.M. missionaries in Algiers, who are no longer able to meet for fellowship, as they live in different *communes*. One of the workers there is allowed to go to the English Church, but cannot obtain permission to visit the dentist, despite her evident distress.

In the second place, there is a shortage of essential commodities in certain districts, fuel being extremely scarce. The fact that many of our friends out yonder may be enjoying the oranges and dates that *we* now cherish merely as a memory, by no means compensates for the lack of more important foodstuffs that, in this God-favoured land, we still obtain in satisfying abundance.

So that, whilst there is nothing in the news from Tangier to give rise to undue apprehension or alarm, there is sufficient to dispel

complacency and to fill our hearts with prayerful concern. There are gratifying evidences that many a missionary is, during these days of strain, proving the wonderful sufficiency of God's grace and provision in quite a new way; but *just because* we in the Homeland are no longer able to help materially towards the amelioration of war-time conditions on the Field, we must not allow ourselves to settle down to a kind of resigned inaction: prayer STILL changes things!

A Few Themes for Prayer

Miss Lickman, who sustained a fractured thigh some weeks ago, is able to get about once more; but we are grieved to learn that another trouble has appeared, that makes it imperative for her to come Home for treatment.

Mrs. Warren, upon whom has devolved much extra work and responsibility since the accident befell Miss Lickman, is "very tired" and far from well; whilst **Mr. Warren** himself is "very unwell," owing to a recurrence of asthma, with consequent sleeplessness and great fatigue.

Mrs. Bocking, of Charchell, is also "in a poor state of health." Our dear friends in North Africa have so much to endure these days that we covet for them the priceless boon of robust health. Let us make it a *daily petition* that the Lord would graciously put His hand in healing blessing upon these dear ones, and any others who may be in similar need!

News from Workers in the Homeland

BELIEVING that many of our readers would like to learn how our workers in Britain are faring during this time of enforced sojourn at home, we have written to those engaged in spiritual work with a view to obtaining up-to-date news. The following are extracts from some of the letters received in reply:—

Miss A. Clack and Miss M. Jones (*Gospel Caravan, Lyon's Camp, Rhyl Coast Road, Rhyl, Flints.*): "We rented a small automobile caravan . . . roomier than the gypsy van, but still not large enough for meetings of any size. . . Then our Heavenly

Father sent . . . a hut! And so Lyon's Holiday Camp, crowded with its motley crew of docksiders from Liverpool and elsewhere, now has its own place of meeting. The Sunday School started with . . . 24 present. In the evening . . . a Gospel Service for grown-ups. The hut filled . . . Gospel hymns resounding through the fields . . . Sixty-two children present at our Convalescent Home meeting. Three, we know, were saved during this past year."

Miss G. E. Petter (c/o Mrs. Johnson, *Livingshayes, Silvertown, nr. Exeter*): "I had a very happy and busy time at "Heightside" (Guest House and Conference Centre), and was glad to be able to give a helping hand in time of need. Now a further sphere of service has opened up . . ."

Mrs. J. A. Liley (at 23, *Rochdale Road, Edenfield, Ramsbottom, nr. Manchester*): ". . . It has been a very real privilege to bring the Lord's claims upon the human heart, and also His work in N. Africa, before both adults and children in and around Bristol last winter, and since, in Manchester and district. . . Just now a little itinerary is being taken in the interests of the N.A.M., visits being arranged to different centres in Lancs., Yorks., and Derbyshire."

Miss K. M. E. Gotelee (at 19, *Eastfield Drive, Aigburth Road, Liverpool 17*): ". . . I am getting increasing opportunities in the Lord's service . . . morning or evening services in small Mission Halls and Chapels . . . and, during the week, invitations to speak about the Lord's work in Tunis . . . Could I borrow your North Africa slides? There are some good opportunities."

Mrs. E. Wigg (*Thorn Cottage, West End, Woking, Surrey*): "My husband is quite happy in his work at Cairo . . . Quite frequently I speak at Women's Meetings in the country villages around here: also at the Sunday School . . . In his last letter my husband spoke of many lads who had yielded their hearts and lives to the Saviour. He says: 'This is the most wonderful sowing time that I have ever known. God is so gracious . . .'"

Mrs. M. Webb (at 74, *Coniston Road, Muswell Hill, London, N.10*): "**I shall be pleased to address Sunday Schools, Prayer**

Meetings, or Mothers' Meetings in or near London, and can bring Native Costume and Curios if desired."

Miss J. McRobbie (*Y.W.C.A., 57, Dee Street, Aberdeen*): "All the winter activities started again at the beginning of October. The different classes—Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Badminton Club—meet once a week. The Junior Class is very encouraging . . . On Sunday afternoons we have a Bible Class, and once a month a Nurses' Union Meeting. There are some fine Christian nurses . . ."

The above extracts are necessarily very scrappy, but they are culled from letters some of which abound in vivid detail. It is clear that our workers at home are rendering splendid service, and that many are rejoicing in such reaping as has been denied them during years of toil upon relatively unfruitful Moslem soil.

Although we have no very recent news from **Mr. Cyril Morriss** and **Mr. and Mrs. Hermon Morgan**, we know that they, too, are being greatly blessed in their work among members of His Majesty's Forces. Needless to say, *all* of these workers will greatly value your fellowship in prayer.

"Keswick Convention in Print"

As the Keswick Convention could not, for obvious reasons, be held this year, the Keswick message for to-day was given in the Keswick "Convention in Print" in five special issues of *The Life of Faith*, and has now been reproduced in book form, in response to very many requests. Entitled "Keswick Convention in Print," it contains four Bible Readings by Dr. W. Graham Scroggie, contributions by the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Keswick Convention Trustees, and others of its accredited leaders and speakers. The sequence of teaching usually followed at Keswick is observed. It contains therefore an authoritative presentation of Keswick's message for such a time as this; and it is hoped that it will be widely circulated, especially among missionaries. It is published at 2/- (2/2 post free), by Marshall, Morgan & Scott Ltd.