

# The N.A.M. News Letter



OFFICE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION, 34, BISHAM GARDENS, HIGHGATE, LONDON, N. 6

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No. 23

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MAY-JUNE, 1942



Photo by]

## THE NATIVE MARKET, TANGIER

[E. J. Long

Many of our missionary brethren have made colportage a regular branch of their work. Such native markets as that pictured above are scattered all over North Africa; but in a land where open-air meetings of all kinds are illegal (though this is particularly true of Algeria and Tunisia) considerable tact has to be employed in carrying on aggressive evangelistic work. The sale of the Scriptures is the ideal solution. A folding table is set up, and Bibles, Testaments, Gospels and other literature are exhibited. The missionary is rarely discouraged from reading aloud—with suitable comment!—from samples of his wares; and thus the Good Tidings are published abroad, and sales effected. Many Scripture Gift Mission "Seeds" are sown in this way!

## News from the Field

WITH the advent of Spring we reach again the season of the year when we are accustomed to receive our missionaries' annual reports, dealing with the chief activities of the past year, and bringing before us items of a specially encouraging character.

This year we are particularly indebted to our gifted and devoted Field Superintendent, Mr. Warren of Tangier, for sending us a thoroughly comprehensive survey of the field. Under the modest, if not prosaic, title of "Field Reports," Mr. Warren has presented us with a first-class station-by-station summary of happenings during 1941, collated from actual correspondence from our workers.

Our one regret is that the limited space at our disposal compels us to cut down Mr. Warren's report to about one-third of its full length. Here, then, is the "abridged summary":—

**GAFSA.** Miss Brookes has been very unwell, and is still suffering from chronic appendicitis. A brief period of complete rest and change at Nabeul last summer did her much good, but the disability persists. Miss Alma Kraulis, Miss Brookes's fellow-worker, also benefited considerably from a summer holiday in the mountains. Opportunities of service at Gafsa have increased rather than decreased. The outlying towns and villages are a burden on our workers' hearts, but physical strength, food problems and lack of the means of transport all constitute hindrances to the fulfilment of desire. . . . Extreme poverty among the natives is evidenced by the fact that little children are often quite naked.

**TUNIS.** This station has been the brightest spot on the field. Both the work in the city itself and that in the wider area has been most inspiring and encouraging—amongst Moslems, Jews and Europeans. . . . The young element of the Italian community is taking a great interest in Bible study under the leadership of Mr. Brown, who can now preach in Italian. . . . One of the most remarkable bits of work ever carried out in the country was the Scripture Sales Campaign in the Spring. Thoroughly planned house-to-house visitation led to extraordinary sales.

The Bible Depot work under Mr. Miles has also proved encouraging. There were three candidates for baptism, but it was not possible to have the service as planned.

**MENAA.** After being closed some time owing to Mr. Cook's military service, the work reopened with some amount of opposition. A new departure has been to make the station a real "foyer," or home, where the young men can spend a good deal of their time in reading and games as well as attendance at Bible Classes and meetings.

Owing to lack of petrol, the villages have had to be visited on foot. In the winter skis are used. Our workers in this lonely outpost were once this winter cut off by snow for 17 days.

**LAFAYETTE.** The car can no longer be used, but Mr. Marsh has bought a bicycle to help in the visitation of the villages, and especially at Hammam, where the attendances continue to be good. . . . One baptism has been reported; another convert has given cause for anxiety. Wonderful provision has been made for temporal needs. Our friends suffer much from their isolation and extreme climatic conditions. They need our prayers in their very trying outpost.

**OUED AMIZOUR.** Miss Degenkolw, our Danish worker, has been cut off from her people since the occupation of Denmark. Restricted movement and medical supplies have lessened her work, but she still has many opportunities.

**AZAZGA.** This station has been seriously affected by restrictions on movements. As Mr. Arthur's former work was largely extensive colportage, the loss of freedom of movement and the absence of petrol have made a lot of difference to him. In the district open to him he has travelled quite a lot on foot. Still, he says that he finds more than enough to do.

**DJEMAA SAHRIDJ and MEKLA.** Mr. Willson reports that, despite restrictions, the work on the station is encouraging. This brother makes good use of his technical skill in the preparation of object-lessons, and has also made toys and marbles to replace the Christmas gifts that one used to be able to buy for the children's Christmas party.

Miss Widmer leads a very busy life with her medical and midwifery work. . . . The work is highly appreciated, and affords opportunities for witness in the homes of the people.

Miss Marsh has started a special class for native girls.

Miss Fearnley's two (native) children give her much joy.

Miss Ward has written hopefully of her work among the native children. . . . She has recently been joined by Miss Marsh.

**ALGIERS.** Here restrictions on movements have been most severe. Mrs. Ross and her daughter live in one of the suburbs of the city, and for some time were not allowed to go beyond the limits of the suburb itself, not even to attend a Church service or to see a doctor or to make purchases. They could only see their missionary friends from an adjoining suburb by meeting at the boundary. But visitors to

the house have been many, and this has given opportunity for personal testimony and Bible teaching. . . . At Christmas the children brought their own Christmas tree. . . . **Mr. Shorey** finds very limited opportunities for visits to native shops and cafés.

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**CHERCHELL.** Here again restrictions and their consequences have been severe. All the outlying work has had to be given up. The very encouraging French meetings have gradually melted away. . . . Some of the classes, however, have been maintained, and good attendances have been reported. . . . **Mr. Pearce** has continued his language studies, and is proving a help in many ways.

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**GUERCIF.** **Mrs. Simpson**, with her sublime faith and devotion, has carried on her work of hospitality and treatment of the sick, and testifies to a considerable amount of encouragement in the way people seek and find the truth.

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**TAZA.** Severe weather conditions have greatly reduced the visits to outlying villages to which the **Misses Marston** and **Chapman** used to devote so much of their energy. **Miss Chapman** was very ill for some time, but recovered and resumed her work.

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**FEZ.** Little news comes from **Miss Denison**, who is very gallantly carrying on alone in this Moslem stronghold. . . . Living seems to be somewhat easier in Fez than elsewhere. **Miss Denison** is one of the "old guard" who can be depended upon to carry on and not say much about it.

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**SETTAT.** **Miss Buxton** and **Miss Reed** have found both the medical work and the classes encouraging, though from time to time their nationality is against them.

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**CASABLANCA.** This year has seen the departure of **Mr. Swanson** from the field, following **Mrs. Swanson** after some months' interval. He will be much missed on account of his knowledge of the language, which he taught to our younger workers.

**Miss Banks** and **Miss Bowring** write very encouragingly of the work among Spaniards and Italians. The work among the young calls for much praise, for they are keen on Bible study, prayer and personal witness.

**Miss Ross** and **Miss Grant** are very busily engaged in their work among women and girls. **Miss Grant's** special department is school work—a new development.

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**RABAT.** **Miss Sharpe** and **Miss Dew** get on happily together, and the work has been progressing fairly normally. Prayer is asked for the older girls, who are far less accessible than in their early youth.

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**TANGIER.** Tangier is a regular hive of industry. **Miss Glen** continues her school, with greatly reduced numbers, though this is partly the result of the division of the work, **Miss Drury** having opened a

native day school for girls in one of the native quarters of the town, with some of **Miss Glen's** girls as a nucleus. **Miss Drury** is distinctly encouraged.

**Miss Rokeby-Robinson** has launched out, too, in the same native quarter; and, working in co-operation with the Hospital, does much to relieve physical suffering and bring souls under the sound of the Gospel.

**Miss Lincoln** seems to have been clearly led in opening an elementary school for British and other children for mornings only. She also visits among the natives, has a women's meeting once a week, and a Sunday School conducted in French.

**Miss Bowker** and **Miss Lincoln** have an Infants' Sunday School for native children.

**Miss Craggs** continues her daily reading and talks with the patients in the women's ward of the Hospital.

**Miss Hubbard** helps by speaking most acceptably at meetings held for the workers, whilst **Miss Knight**, though not able to do so much as in former years, is still, like **Phoebe**, "a succourer of many."

**Mr. and Mrs. Campbell**, formerly working with the Southern Morocco Mission at Marrakesh, render most helpful service in a variety of ways.

**Mr. Padilla's** encouraging work among the Spaniards has often been reported in these pages. He needs our prayers these days.

**Miss Collard** and **Miss Hoadley** continue their self-sacrificing labours on behalf of unwanted or orphan children. Such work is badly hit in these days of shortage.

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**TULLOCH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.** The Hospital is too big a subject to deal with in this Report, and as **Dr. Anderson** sends in his own to the Mission, I need not say more than pay a tribute to the self-sacrificing activities of the Staff.

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**HOPE HOUSE.** It is no easy job these days to keep house for a number of people. We owe much therefore to **Miss Lickman** for her supervision, and the difficult task of assuring service and supplies for the Hospital. . . . **Miss Lickman's** knowledge of Spanish has become increasingly valuable.

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**TETUAN.** **Miss Low** and **Miss Bradbury** are encouraged by the numbers attending the classes for Moorish women and girls. An average of 20 come each week for knitting, followed by a Gospel service. The Dispensary is open at least three times a week.

**FRANCE.** **Miss Tilney** writes occasionally, but says little about herself. We have heard from a friend that parcels of food and clothing have been sent to her, and we have been able to send some money.

**Mr. Hocart** keeps busy with his various Church activities. He has had lantern services in the interests of North Africa—the most he is able to do these days (in "unoccupied France").

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We are sure that these details, brief though they are, will provoke to much praise and continued intercession.

## “A Comment on N.A.M.”

UNDER the above title we received, a few weeks ago, the following lines. They are from the pen of Mr. William Olney, Senior Deacon of “Spurgeon’s” Tabernacle, and now in his 93rd year:

Does it sound strange?  
We would gladly exchange  
Home comforts for “roughing it” in Tangier  
If things allowed;  
But they thickly shroud  
The “call” happy workers obeyed when here.  
Now detained by age,  
As we read the page  
Of “N.A.M.,” we can only sympathise,  
And ask to know  
How we help can show  
For those upon whom the work-burden lies.

We warmly appreciate Mr. Olney’s gracious gesture in sending us this little message; and we trust that our readers will indeed remember constantly that although the launching-out upon a missionary career is usually for “under thirties,” *there is no age-limit for intercessors at the Throne of Grace*; and never were they more urgently needed.

### *The Late Miss E. K. Aldridge.*

OUR LORD’S commendation, “She hath done what she could,” may surely be applied to the late Miss Emma Aldridge, whose Home-call was briefly announced in our last NEWS LETTER. When she made application to the Mission in August, 1891, it was said of her that she was “a very experienced nurse inclined to disparage her own ability”; that she had “more diligence than enterprise”; and that she was “thoroughly dependable.”

Miss Aldridge was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, and was for many years a member of Bethesda Free Chapel, where the Editor of this paper is now Pastor. On being accepted by the Mission she sailed in December, 1891, for Tangier, to work as a nurse at the Tulloch Memorial Hospital. Dr. T. G. Churcher, who was then in charge, writes of her that, professionally, he thinks of Miss Aldridge as being all that was first-rate, and he much admired her courage in taking up work in Larache, a most difficult and unhealthy place.

In 1899 Miss Aldridge left Tangier to occupy Larache, an important coastal town,

where she laboured in the Gospel (frequently without a fellow-worker) till 1926, when she was asked to open a new Mission station at Settat. For health reasons, however, a further change was deemed advisable, and the important town of Oudjda, on the borders of Morocco and Algeria, became the centre of her witness until 1936, when she retired to the Homeland after 44 years of service in Morocco. Her activities were very varied, and included a dispensary, visiting in the homes in the town and neighbourhood, distributing tracts to Spaniards, visits to a small Spanish hospital, and selling Scriptures in native shops—all with evident blessing.

At the age of 85 Miss Aldridge “fell asleep” on February 26th, 1942, and was laid to rest at the Woodgreen Cemetery, Godshill, Hants. She will be remembered by many with affection and gratitude.

I.E.B.

### *N.A.M. Annual Meetings.*

THE Annual Meetings of the N.A.M. will be held, GOD willing, on Thursday, May 28th, at the Caxton Hall, adjoining St. James’s Park Station, at 3.30 and 5.30 p.m.

The Afternoon Gathering will be presided over by E. T. Morriss, Esq., and the speakers expected are Mrs. E. E. Short, Miss Mabel Jones, and Mrs. E. J. Long.

At the Evening Meeting the chair will be taken by Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor. The missionary speakers are Mrs. M. Webb and Mrs. J. A. Liley, whilst the Editorial Secretary of the N.A.M. (Pastor E. J. Long, of Sunderland) will give the closing message.

Our **last** Annual Meeting, held (on September 17th, 1940) during the early days of the London air raids, was disturbed by the sirens; and gun-fire sent us to the basement shelters ere our first speaker—Dr. Liley—was half-way through his message! In the Lord’s great goodness, conditions—in London at least—have greatly improved since then; and we are confident that our many friends will make every endeavour to be with us on May 28th.

**N.B.**—A special welcome is extended to those able to join us at the Prayer Meeting, from 3 to 3.25 p.m., to be conducted by Rev. S. J. Henman.