

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

# The N.A.M. News Letter



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

HON. SECRETARY: OSWALD L. CARNEGIE

AMERICAN AUXILIARY: HON. SECRETARY, DR. HARVEY FARMER, 6109, COLUMBIA AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., U.S.A.

No. 25

EDITED BY E. J. LONG, F.R.S.G.S.

SEPT.-OCT., 1942

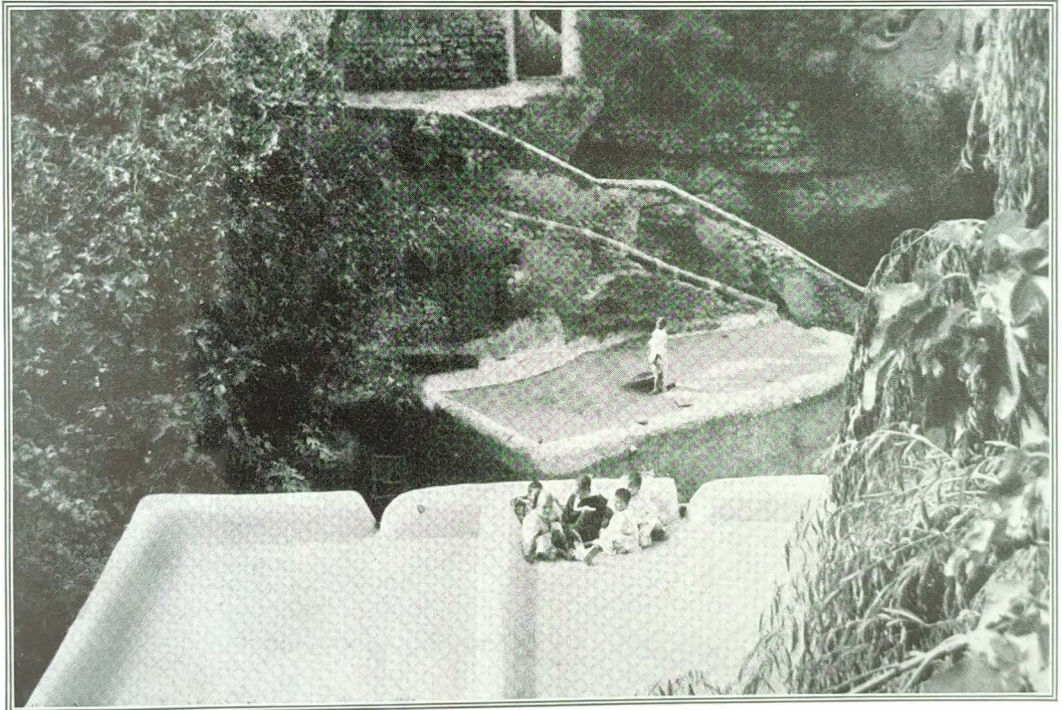


Photo by]

"UPON THE HOUSE-TOP"

(Acts 10, 9.)

(E. J. L.)

The first "Foreign Mission" was launched from a house-top in Caesarea, where the Lord first revealed to Peter His gracious purpose of blessing for the hitherto excluded Gentiles. Our Lord's words in Matt. 24, 17 ("Let him that is on the house-top not come down . . ."), together with His mention of the hand-mill in verse 41, imply that the flat-roofed native house and the primitive hand mill prevail in the East until the very day of His Coming. The snow-white roof-top in the picture will collect the precious rain-water during the rainy season, whilst the madjel—a vast, concreted, water-cistern in the basement of the dwelling—thus replenished, will assure a domestic water-supply throughout the drought of summer. A badly-cracked, neglected madjel ("broken cisterns, that can hold no water"—Jer. 2, 13) means water-famine in a time of sore need.

Page one

## *These Two Years*

**I**N March, 1940, at the request of the Council, Mr. Warren (N.A.M. Field Superintendent) and his wife commenced a tour of our Mission Stations in North Africa, their aim being to make personal contact with the workers, and to promote friendly intercourse and mutual help. The Council felt, furthermore, that the question of deciding upon the most suitable centre for Mr. Warren's headquarters could be more satisfactorily determined after a survey of the entire field. It transpired, however, that the capitulation of France itself provided the answer; for it was immediately recognised that Mr. Warren's presence in Tangier (whither his tour had brought him in May, 1940) was essential to the general interests of the work.

As to the missionaries, some labouring in Tunis were ordered by the Consul to leave for home; nevertheless, a total of over fifty have been permitted to continue their work at the various stations. A number were already at home on furlough, and these have obtained paid employment for the duration of the war.

We were naturally concerned as to the attitude that the French authorities in North Africa might adopt towards the missionaries. The Oran incident engendered some bitterness in Algeria for a time, but apart from some rather irksome restrictions on travel, and certain curtailments of the work, the results were not very serious. The lack of petrol made it impossible to use the Mission cars for visiting villages and outstations, and this has been a real hardship; but amidst all the perplexities and difficulties there has been evident blessing at several centres, bringing cheer and encouragement to the missionaries.

The past two years have shown the wisdom of GOD's providence in leading Mr. Warren to take up his headquarters in a place equally accessible—in terms of postal facilities—to workers on the field and to the Council in London. Letters by Air Mail to and from

Mr. Warren have been received regularly at intervals of approximately ten days; and as the direct communication between workers in French North Africa and the Council is interrupted, Mr. Warren's presence in Tangier as intermediary is invaluable. His experience in North Africa dates back to 1911; and this, combined with an intimate knowledge of missionary candidates who have passed through his hands at the "Foyer" in Paris, renders him exceptionally qualified for his present post.

One of our main problems has been the transmission of funds, but we are thankful to say that since the beginning of this year we have been able to forward regular monthly remittances to the missionaries. In spite of all hindrances, our workers have received during the past twelve months amounts totalling a normal year's support. We have been very conscious of our Heavenly Father's providing hand, as well as of His restraining hand upon the forces of evil that would fain hinder progress.

The work on the field has suffered from the loss of Mr. and Mrs. V. Swanson and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith, all of whom have returned to the U.S.A., and by the death of Miss K. Smith. The shortage of nourishing foods affects the health of some more than others; and all would certainly benefit by a period of thorough rest and change. It is reported that the cost of living is practically three times what it was in pre-war days.

The work in the Homeland is now carried on by a small staff. We were very reluctant to part with our Deputation Secretary, Mr. E. J. Long, who has taken the pastorate of Bethesda Chapel, Sunderland; but the fruit granted to his ministry there leaves no doubt that this was the Master's plan for him. We rejoice that his labours are fraught with such evident blessing.

Since Mr. Long's removal the Mission has been very ably represented by Mrs. Liley, wife of Dr.—now Captain—James Liley. She has addressed many meetings in the

Midlands and Scotland in the interests of the work, and arrangements are being made for her to visit Northern Ireland in the autumn. Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Fisher have also helped in this way, whilst others of our missionaries who are detained at home speak of the work as opportunity arises.

There are at present four accepted lady candidates awaiting the day when they will be able to join those on the field. Miss Ethel Little, who is engaged to Mr. R. I. Brown of Tunis, had already spent nearly two months in Paris in 1939 when the outbreak of war brought her training there to an abrupt end. Miss Jeannie McRobbie was accepted in January, 1940, and designated for Tunis, but was obliged to return to Aberdeen, where she is most usefully engaged in the work of the Scottish Y.W.C.A. Nurse Mollie Mowl was accepted in July, 1940, for service at the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier; and more recently Miss Margaret Russell, who is engaged to Mr. Norman Pearce of Cherchell, was welcomed into our ranks. May the Lord graciously and speedily open up the way for these young people, if it be His will!

In view of the great increase in taxation in this country, and the mounting-up of other expenses, it is not surprising that our ordinary receipts have fallen off. Many of our supporters find it impossible to send as much as formerly, but other channels of supply have been opened, and in the providence of GOD, for a time, help was received even in advance of our requirements. To all who have helped by their gifts and prayers, we express our very hearty thanks.

All things are possible with GOD, and we look to Him to meet our ever-recurring needs. To His praise be it said that so far during the years of war we have been wonderfully relieved of any burden concerning finance; and we are confident that He Who has led us hitherto will maintain the testimony of His servants in North Africa until all His purposes are fulfilled.

—I.E.B.

## *News from the Field*

**GAFSA.** A few weeks ago we were privileged to publish in "*The Christian*" a detailed account of a ten-day itinerating tour undertaken in Southern Tunisia by the

**Misses Brookes and Kraulis.** The adventure—for such it certainly was—not only reflects great credit upon the courage and enterprise of our two sisters, but reveals also how graciously the Lord puts forth His hand in an "enemy controlled" country where, in most centres, the restrictions placed upon the movements of workers have been very severe.

Here is a specimen paragraph: "We had many opportunities of witnessing for the Lord in trains, buses, houses and hotels. Some came to us in quest of books, and others seemed very ready to listen. Believing that our undertaking was in the will of the Lord, we feel confident that He will water the Seed and cause it to bring forth fruit to His glory. We were conscious throughout of His presence and help. Three towns were worked quite thoroughly, and four others visited, though in two of them there was insufficient time to do anything of importance."

**TUNIS.** Mr. Brown continues to be greatly encouraged in the European work at "Bethesda." During the summer he has attended a very successful Camp for young people at Ain Draham, Algeria. About 150 Protestant children were present, and attended the Bible Study Classes held twice daily. The young people were divided into three age-groups, Mr. Brown taking charge of the "intermediates"; and it is thrilling to learn that as many as 35 children accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

**Mr. Miles** furnishes us with an item of domestic news that should make those of us in this favoured Homeland "count our blessings." He says the cost of living is quite three times what it was two years ago, and that footwear is an especially serious problem. Neither leather nor rubber is available, the only shoes now procurable having composition uppers and wooden soles. "They do not last long," says Mr. Miles.

**AZAZGA.** Mr. Arthur has been camp steward and chaplain in a Camp for 200 "Cubs" in his district. He has also been responsible for the catering—the acid-test of ingenuity in war-time. When we learn, further, that Mr. Arthur has been invited to undertake the marking of examination papers for a Scripture Examination held in Algiers, we can appreciate the saying that "the reward of work well done is *—more work—*!"

**CHERCHELL.** Mrs. Boeking has not been at all well, and has had to undergo special treatment at a Hydro. We are glad to learn—from a later report—that our sister is now at home once more, and that there is “a definite improvement” in her condition.

**DJEMAA SAHRIDJ.** We learn from Mr. Willson that the summer heat in Kabylia has been of exceptional intensity. As a consequence, the potato crop has been a failure. Knowing how greatly our missionaries depend upon such a staple item of food, we earnestly look to the Lord that our workers' larders may be replenished throughout the coming winter by His providing hand.

**TANGIER.** From Dr. Anderson comes the following: “Since I wrote to you we have added a little girl to the members of our family—Jean Margaret. She is sandy-haired, and perfectly behaved—so far! . . . Mother is making a slow but steady recovery. We thank God for all His goodness.” [We share heartily in the Doctor's rejoicings.]

News that Miss Degenkolw has been “very ill” with influenza and that Miss M. Fearnley has been receiving injections for rheumatism suggests that our beloved workers are in a run-down condition as a result of the privations of these war years. Let us pray that the time may come speedily when all may enjoy the rest, the change, and the nourishing food that they so much need.

## *In the Light and in the Shadow*

MANY may have said, as they looked at the photograph of the “Mosque in Fez” in the last issue of the NEWS LETTER, “What a beautiful picture”: and indeed it is.

But, on the right-hand side, low down, there is the shadow of a man, probably a beggar, the first of a long row of ragged, blind, deformed, filthy, diseased, possibly leprous, specimens of humanity.

Years ago a North Africa missionary, wearing native dress, happened to pass that very doorway; and, strange to say, he had some money to give away. Accordingly, he quietly dropped a small silver coin into each beggar's bowl or tin or hand, and so passed on. He had not gone many steps when he heard

behind him a strange, confused noise. Looking back, he saw that the narrow street was now thronged with a struggling crowd of beggars, sweeping on towards him like a tidal wave, and shouting excitedly: “*Fain hooer? Fain hooer?*”—“Where is he? Where is he?”

As the N.A.M. missionary had nothing left, he turned and fled!

The Christian to-day, having all the riches of the grace of GOD, *need not* send them away empty; but to the sinner's cry, “Where is He? Where is He?” can reply with joy: “Behold the Lamb of GOD, Who taketh away the sin of the world.”

—Contributed by Dr. T. G. Churcher,  
*sometime N.A.M. missionary in Morocco.*

## *The Saddest Fact of All*

ALL along the highways and trade-routes of North Africa you will encounter them, these sun-bronzed Bedouins. Almost invariably their faces are tattooed, and either cheek bears a tiny blue cross. “What does that cross signify?” you ask them; and the reply is always the same: “*Ma naar'f shee; hatha aad'tna, wa burra*”—“I don't know; it is our custom, and that is all there is to it.”

As a matter of fact, it is a thirteen-hundred-year survival of Christianity. These people's forbears were Christians who refused to accept the religion of the Mohammedan conquerors of North Africa.

What a tragedy, that these dear folk should live, and die, and be buried in a Moslem grave, bearing yet upon their cheeks—to our reproach—an uninterpreted Cross!

—E.J.L.

## *Keswick in London*

The full report of the Keswick in London Convention, arranged by the Trustees and held in Bloomsbury Central Church, is published under the title “KESWICK IN LONDON, 1942,” at 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d. post free), by Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Ltd., 7, Milford Lane, Strand, W.C. 2. A companion volume to “The Keswick Convention in Print,” it contains an authoritative presentation of the Keswick message for war-time. The frontispiece is a portrait of Rev. E. L. Langston, Chairman of the Trustees, who writes an introduction.