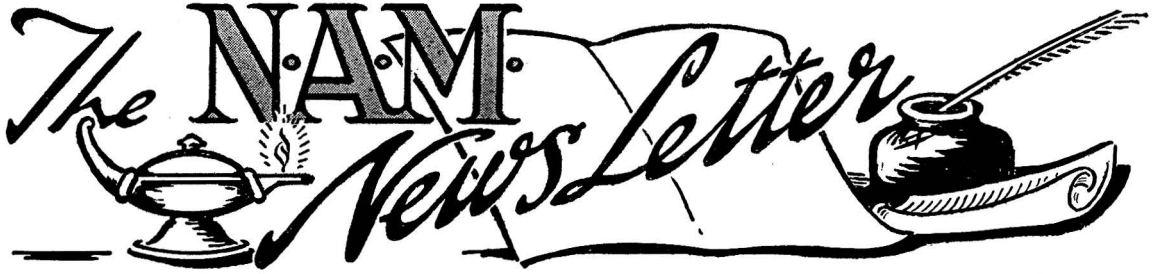


Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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

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

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Photo by]

PASSING ON THE NEWS

[E.J.L.

An Everyday Scene in Native North Africa.

One of the outstanding privileges of this favoured land of ours is the broadcasting, several times daily, of authentic news bulletins. In enemy-occupied Europe untold thousands of oppressed people risk life or liberty daily as they listen-in to the "B.B.C." Out yonder in North Africa, where the masses are illiterate, and where wireless sets are for the favoured few, news is still passed on by word of mouth. It is the oldest news service in the world, and the most faulty; for at every "re-transmission" there is leakage and distortion, until at length truth becomes fiction, and rumour masquerades as fact. But we have such GOOD news to tell that we need never fear exaggeration through repetition: "FULL salvation; for ALL; and absolutely FREE!" Were there ever such headlines? Let us shout the glad news in every native market-place, proclaim it in every village, publish it in every coffee-shop, and blaze it along the caravan routes! "FULL . . . for ALL . . . and absolutely FREE!"

Notes from Headquarters

THE Day of Prayer and Praise on September 16th was a time of spiritual refreshment, and already we recognise, with thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, that some of the prayers have been answered.

By the time this appears in print two of our Missionaries may be on the way to Tunis.

GOD has graciously granted us a further token of His favour by leading some of His servants, who have helped the Mission financially on many occasions, to send us a cheque for £2,000 towards expenses during the year 1944. The cost of living in North Africa is extremely high, but a special gift—which has come from the same friends, to whom the Mission is profoundly indebted—will enable us to send the sum of £10 to each of our workers.

An investigation (kindly undertaken, of course!) has revealed that no fewer than eleven of our missionaries are “in the seventies,” with a close runner-up at 69! One particularly gallant soul still “holds the fort” in Morocco at the age of 80!

We thank GOD for all these veterans, who have so nobly “kept the faith” and made the Gospel known in North Africa.

The following tribute, which we know to be well deserved, has just reached the writer of these notes from a soldier friend serving in Algeria: “The conditions are extremely trying for Missionaries in these parts to-day, and it needs all the grace imaginable to keep from complaining, I should say; but one thing I have noticed with the few Missionaries I have met connected with the N.A.M., and that is their ‘stickability.’ They have certainly learned ‘in whatsoever state they are therewith to be content.’ Their conduct and mode of living has been a tremendous challenge to my faith, and I shall ever thank GOD for bringing me into contact with them for this short space of time. May the next generation of Missionaries who come to these parts be as ‘solid’ and unshaken as are the present dear ones whom I have met!”

The high proportion of “veterans” raises the problem of additional workers, to fill the gaps which will inevitably be made in our ranks. Owing to the necessary study of lan-

guages, a new missionary can rarely become a fully effective worker in less than three years, so that young men and women called of GOD will be urgently needed immediately the war is over, to prepare for the maintenance and extension of Gospel effort in North Africa. Some, even now, may have time for study which will help to equip them for the coming days.

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest.”

O.L.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren

On September 7th Mr. Warren wrote as follows: “We are all packed up and ready to leave to-morrow morning. Everybody has been very kind to us. I do not know what we should have done without Mr. Bocking’s help. Last evening we had a farewell service. In addition to kind words of appreciation, voiced by Dr. Anderson, they presented us with a very nice travelling bag and, for Mrs. Warren’s use more particularly, a very serviceable wrist watch. In addition there was a nice water-colour drawing of a view from the beach below Hope House, with a verse of Scripture (Heb. vi. 10), and the signatures of all the missionaries. The water-colour was by Mr. Bocking. Coffee and cakes added to the pleasure of the evening.”

Mr. and Mrs. Warren were then on the eve of their departure for Fez, where it was greatly hoped that the change of climate and relaxation from heavy duties might prove beneficial to our brother’s health. The Lord is evidently answering prayer most wonderfully, for just one month later Mr. Warren wrote from Fez telling the glad news that he is now “a different man altogether.”

Quite obviously, Mr. Warren has still a great amount of lee-way to make up—his greatly altered appearance on the photograph published in this issue is sufficient evidence of that—but we are confident that the early improvement is a token of healing mercies that will yet bring our dear friend to a robustness he has not known for many years.

Let us continue steadfastly in believing prayer, and seek from the Lord special grace for Mr. Bocking, upon whose willing and able shoulders an ever-growing burden is accumulating.



A RECENT GROUP AT HOPE HOUSE, TANGIER.

Front Row (left to right) : Dr. Anderson's little boy, GEORGE ; Miss GLEN ; Mr. and Mrs. WARREN ; Miss CRAGGS ; Miss LICKMAN.

Middle Row : Mr. P. PADILLA ; a Guest ; Miss DRURY ; a Guest ; Miss FORD ; Dr. Anderson's daughter, ELAINE ; YVONNE BOCKING ; Mr. BOCKING.

Back Row : Nurse BOWKER ; Mrs. BOCKING ; Miss CHIPPERFIELD ; Miss GLADWYN ; Nurse CARTY ; Nurse ANDERSON.

“The Kaid”

The following “vignette,” from the early days of Hospital work at Tangier, has just been received from that amazing veteran, Dr. T. G. Churcher :

“There appeared one morning among the patients a fine, brown-robed mountaineer named ‘The Kaid.’ He listened to the Gospel message, came again on several occasions, and eventually accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. He seemed soundly converted, and after a time our brother Mr. Summers baptized him in the sea just below the Mission House, where there was a suitable bay. It was a *very* happy occasion for us all, and was long remembered.

“As time passed we lost sight of our friend ‘The Kaid,’ and for several years no one heard a word about him. Then, one morning, he reappeared, and told us his story.

“He had gone travelling on foot—as Moslems often do—in other countries, and found himself at length in Egypt. There he had fallen sick, and had been admitted to a Mission hospital, finding therein both healing for his body and revival of his spiritual faith.

“The Tangier missionaries were greatly rejoiced to have him back amongst them. About that time an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society was passing through the town and needed a native helper. ‘The Kaid’ was suggested, and readily agreed to go.

“The next thing we heard was that while helping the agent to sell Scriptures in the market-place of a large coast town, he was set upon by a big Moslem crowd, and so unmercifully ill-treated that, shortly afterwards, he passed away—to be, we believe, with his Lord and Master eternally.

“The spiritual need of North Africa appears as great to-day as during those early years of witness in Morocco. Who amongst us to-day will say humbly ‘Lord, here am I: send me’?”

News from Algiers

THE following lines from our aged worker, Mr. Shorey, begin with things domestic, pass on to Gospel witness, and then furnish welcome tidings of Lekhedar, one of the most outstanding of Kabyle converts: “You have no idea what conditions are like out here for the ordinary civilian population. Cottons, thread, wool, pins, needles, pen-nibs, writing-paper, envelopes, good ink, and many similar, simple things one just cannot buy now; and in the food line one has to learn to do without a good many articles.

“No new clothes (underwear or ‘outerwear’) or footwear are to be had by the non-privileged class. However, I am thankful to the Lord for His goodness and loving kindness. People in other lands must be much worse off than we are—waiting anxiously for deliverance from German or Japanese tyranny.

“I have a few opportunities of witnessing for my Lord and Saviour, sometimes to British and American troops—speaking in a canteen, or to individuals. From time to time one or two professed Christian Kabyles come to see me; and now and then I can visit native cafés, restaurants and shops in and around Algiers.

“This year for the whole month of September it is the Moslem Fast of Ramadhan, so I am not doing any visiting, as cafés and restaurants are closed until the evening.

“I do not get much news of Lekhedar, as he lives in the mountains, some twelve miles from Bougie; but a Christian Kabyle from Bougie was in Algiers a few weeks ago, and gave me some news of him.

“Lekhedar’s nephew, now serving in the French Army, and who professes to be a Christian, came recently to see me, and he also gave me news of his uncle, which was good, and convinces me that Lekhedar stands firm in his Christian faith. For a long time after his cycle accident he was laid aside, but now seems to be able to get about once more, and keeps in touch with the two or three Kabyle Christians in Bougie.

“I see it is reckoned that some 500,000 persons are now in Algiers, quite apart from Allied troops, whereas a while ago it was 280,000.

“Praise the Lord for all He has done to help our nation! I trust there may be a great spiritual revival in many lands.”

We are indeed thankful to GOD for the special grace bestowed upon our faithful and zealous brother during the long, testing years of Vichy misrule, when things were exceedingly difficult for our Algiers missionaries in particular. There is yet a vast volume of unmet need among the native population of North Africa, many of whom still go naked and hungry. Let us pray earnestly that a happier day may soon dawn, when the satisfaction of physical want will make the Arabs more willing listeners to the missionaries’ message.

A Christmas Gift Book

War conditions once again prevented the holding of the Keswick Convention in the Lake District, so a second “Keswick in London” Convention was arranged by the Trustees, and held in St. Paul’s Church, Portman Square, from July 19th to 23rd.

A full report of the Convention is published under the title “Keswick in London, 1943.” This volume of searching and inspiring messages (including the two Bible Readings by Dr. W. Graham Scroggie) makes an excellent Christmas Gift Book. Its size (7 inches by 5) makes it easy to post in a stout envelope. (Here at Bethesda, Sunderland, we have purchased a hundred copies for our Christmas Parcels to members serving with H.M. Forces.—*Ed.*) The book is obtainable at 2s. 6d. (or 2s. 9d., post free) from Messrs. Marshall, Morgan and Scott, Limited, 7, Milford Lane, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Homecall of Mr. Cyril Morriss

We have just learnt, with the deepest sorrow, of the death of our beloved missionary, Mr. Cyril Morriss, formerly of Nabeul, Tunisia.

Our brother had been rendering war-time service as an Army Scripture Reader, most of the time having been spent overseas; and it was in Palestine that he succumbed to pneumonia on November 9th.

Further details will appear, D.V., in our next “NEWS LETTER.” Meanwhile we would express to his sorrowing wife and loved ones our heartfelt sympathy.