

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter

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HON. SECRETARY: OSWALD L. CARNEGIE

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GENERAL SECRETARY, ERNEST J. LONG

AMERICAN AUXILIARY: HON. SECRETARY, DR. HARVEY FARMER, 2403, BRISTOL AVENUE, TAMPA 6, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

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

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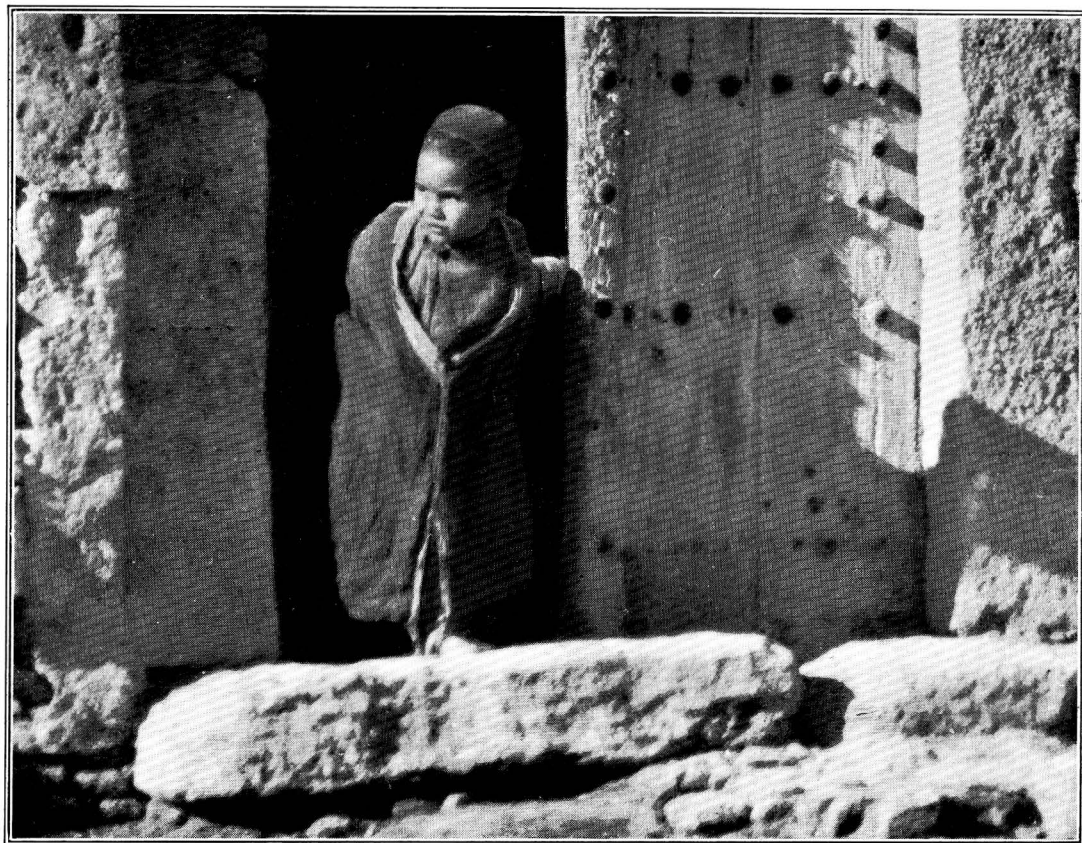


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STILL WAITING!

[E.J.L.

The past few months have witnessed the re-occupation, one after another, of such strategic centres as Tripoli, Cherchell, Fez and Paris. Work among Moorish women and girls has been resumed at Casablanca by Miss Emily Grant; Miss M. E. Chipperfield has opened a new station—Alcazar, in Spanish Morocco; Miss M. Ross and her mother hope soon to re-occupy Algiers, whilst Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ewing are expecting to return to Bône in the Autumn. But Kairouan, the "holy" city of Tunisia, has been without a resident man missionary for over fifteen years. Boys like little Mohammed, pictured above, were waiting to be shepherded in 1930. Today, as young men, they are still waiting. And Mr. Robert Brown, eager to re-occupy Kairouan as soon as opportunity affords, is also still waiting—for his French "visa". Until it is granted, he remains immobilised in the Homeland. Please pray that the granting of this essential permission may be hastened.

— *And now, Paris!*

FOR some time now our bi-monthly issues of the "NEWS LETTER" have brought good tidings, not only of the return of Missionaries to the Field, and the resumption there of long-neglected labours, but also of the re-occupation of territory from which our workers had once been banished.

Every bit of news that has reached us during the past few weeks from Tripoli and Cherchell has borne testimony to God's gracious blessing and provision. In Fez the Misses E. Higbid and E. Harman have recently been joined by the Misses G. Lincoln and D. Richardson—and all four will, I am sure, welcome our prayers that a number of initial problems—notably those of accommodation and transport—may be happily solved.

Since last we wrote Miss N. E. Chipperfield has gone to reside at Alcazar, an important centre of native population in Spanish Morocco, and is opening up a new sphere of witness in which she hopes soon to be joined by Miss G. W. Theakston. These friends, too, will be grateful for your prayerful remembrance.

And now, Paris! On Thursday, April 25th, Mrs. Long and I bade farewell at Victoria Station to Mr. and Mrs. Warren, who are returning to Paris and making their home once more at 15, rue des Orchidées. From this centre, as well as conducting his business as Field Superintendent, Mr. Warren will be in a position to render valuable help once more to the Paris Missionary Fellowship. Furthermore, when Missionary Candidates are forthcoming they will again pursue their preliminary linguistic studies under Mr. Warren's supervision in the French capital.

During his recent stay of rather more than a twelvemonth in the homeland, Mr. Warren has suffered distressingly from exhausting attacks of asthma. Remarkably enough, Paris has proved, from the point of view of health, to be quite the best centre in which our friend has yet resided. It is therefore both our prayer and earnest hope that our Field Superintendent will speedily re-gather such reserves of strength as will fortify him for the arduous labours that lie ahead.

In a later paragraph we publish extracts from a letter recently received from our veteran Missionary, Mr. A. R. Shorey. Since in another recent communication this good brother intimated his desire that his name should be transferred to the Retired List, we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to God for the long years of faithful missionary service begun in Algeria in 1902 and continued through four decades with the uttermost devotion.

A number of our Missionaries who have borne the heavy strain of the war years in North Africa have either reached these shores or are on their way home. Among them are the Misses Marston

and Chapman from Taza, Miss Glen from Tangier, Miss Sharpe from Rabat, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur from Azazga, and the Misses Buxton and Reed from Settat. We give these dear ones a hearty and affectionate welcome, and shall look forward to seeing and hearing some of them at our Spring Meetings on May 23rd, GOD willing. May their sojourn in the homeland be a time of physical recuperation and spiritual refreshing!

Outstanding Native Believer called Home

WE were very grieved to learn from Mr. A. R. Shorey of the death of Lekheder, that valiant soldier of Christ, of whom we have written so often in these pages. From Mr. Shorey's long and interesting letter we make the following extracts:— "I have received a communication from Mr. Arthur, dated April 15th, in which he informs me of the Homecall of Lekheder ben Chakchouk.

"I do not know whether his death was the result of the bicycle accident he had a year or two ago, or whether it was the result of any recent illness, or even a case of poisoning by the Kabyles, but certainly he died a Christian, trusting in the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

"He boldly confessed Christ Jesus in his district (he was the first to do this) some thirteen or fourteen years ago, and had to suffer terribly for his confession of faith. At first he had wanted to be a secret believer in Jesus, but he came across the passage in Matt. x, 32, 33: 'Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.' So Lekheder openly confessed his faith in the Lord Jesus.

"Then persecution began. A fine of twenty francs was laid upon anyone buying from Lekheder's shop, so that nobody dared go to buy from him—at least in daylight. In the fig and olive seasons he used to buy his fruit from the Kabyles in small quantities, and sell them to wholesale dealers for export. This, too, was stopped. His garden was ravaged at night time.

"Lekheder's wife was so threatened by her relations that one day she left him.

"Once, when Lekheder was telling me some of his trials, he added, 'The worst part of all was that my own mother would not speak to me for several months.' But she was finally won as the result of Lekheder's reading to her of the Lord's glory as recounted in the Revelation, chapter one.

"Later on, Lekheder's nephew was brought to the knowledge of the Christian truth through his uncle's testimony. This young man came to see me a month or two before I finally left Algeria, in August, 1944.

“Lekheder exercised a remarkable influence upon several Kabyle men in his district. One of the chief men, formerly an Adjutant in the French Army, and once opposed to Lekheder, turned, and became interested in the Gospel. When Mr. Twaddle and I went to the district he took our side against those that were opposing us at the native café. At another native café the proprietor brought out a Bible which he said his son was reading—a further result of Lekheder’s testimony. Others, too, were influenced; until finally some of the *marabouts* had to leave the district, as the Kabyles refused to pay them any longer.

“Lekheder’s heart greatly rejoiced when a Conference, convened at Tizi-Ouzou just before the war, brought together in happy Christian fellowship not only Missionaries and French Pastors, but also Kabyle and Arab Christians. He realised then that he did not stand alone.

“Well done, Lekheder, saved by grace, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, for ever with the Lord in glory! Praise the Lord!”

An Echo of Earlier Years

MR. A. G. WILLSON, of Djemaa Sahridj, sends us the following paragraphs:—“In the early days of the Mission a young man was brought to Christ. For security reasons, we will call him Si A. All went well for a long time; but at length matrimonial complications developed through the introduction of another woman into the house. Disciplinary action had to be taken, and our friend began to backslide.

“In spite of every effort on the part of God’s servants to restore him, he returned to the Mosque; and, though holding the *Marabouts* in contempt, he remained unmovable. Needless to say, he was not abandoned, though he could not be prevailed upon to attend any meetings.

“He is now well over eighty, and is always delighted to talk of his early experiences. The advent of Mr. George Pearse is fresh in his memory. He can remember Mr. Glenny well. He will often speak of Miss Gillard. He still remembers the hymns taught him by Monsieur Cuendet and others—evidence that the Light that once shone into his heart and that burned so brightly (though dimmed later by the Evil One almost to the point of extinction) is still burning.

“All that is now left to him is his little grandson, a child of six. We were delighted when, one day, he told us he wanted the boy to enter the Methodist Missionary Home at Fort National and be brought up a Christian. All arrangements had been made for the child to start, but alas! owing to his mind being poisoned by Moslem relations, he screamed so much when a car came to fetch him that we thought it best to postpone the journey until another day, his grandfather being ill in bed at the time.

“I do not think he will be going to the Home after all, but his grandfather continues to send him to our Sunday School and boys’ Classes. He is an intelligent little fellow, and we trust that, by the power of God’s Holy Spirit, he will some day be won to the Saviour.”

Changing Tunis

BOTH Miss H. M. M. Tapp and Miss G. E. Petter have written recently of striking changes that are transforming the native life of Tunis. No longer, says Miss Tapp, can we truthfully speak of the “shut-in” women of that great Moslem city. A liberating process, accelerated by the war, is evident on every hand. Arab women are thronging the European shops, elbowing Europeans off the tram-cars, and filling to capacity the cinemas set apart for them. “The French have done marvels in the way of education”—Miss Tapp continues—“and most of the young people, girls as well as boys, can read French fluently. I never feel inclined to subscribe to the down-trodden Arab woman idea. Most of those that I know can get their own way pretty efficiently, though maybe not by direct methods. . . . I have thrice been to visit one of my Arab friends, and have not found her at home!”

Such “liberation” has its grave dangers, as well as its welcome features; but it certainly heralds a day of fresh challenge and priceless opportunity. May many of these “liberated” women be made “free indeed” in Christ!

News from the Field

THE following cheering news has reached us from Miss I. Dew, of Rabat:—“Ten years ago, just before Blossom was taken down South with her husband, she desired to be baptised; but at that time her husband would not consent. After his death she returned here, and to our great joy, about a month ago, she again asked for baptism. This was arranged for March 16th, when Mr. Fallaize conducted the little service. A number of young people, both Spanish and French, were present—some of whom had come to know the Lord in our classes some years ago; but, during the war, the French work had to be closed down. One young man—a former class member—was dealt with by the Lord at that service; and a few days later he, too, asked for baptism. He was baptised the following Saturday. I believe there will still be others; but it was lovely to see, so soon, the first fruits of Blossom’s witness.”

Miss E. Grant, of Casablanca, writes:—“My school work is very steady, three hours each morning and each afternoon, and attendance of twenty-five to thirty regularly. Also my Women’s Class on Wednesday afternoons has increased in attendance, averaging from fifteen to twenty. It is encouraging to see two or three new faces each week.”

From Menaa **Mr. Charles Cook** sends the following news-item :— "The work here is going on very well. We are even overwhelmed by the amount there is to do. There are always sick people to care for here and to be visited in the villages. Good numbers of children come to us, and they are beginning to learn to read the Gospel quite well in their own language. All these activities are somewhat holding up the translation work, and yet I am hoping to complete at least St. John's Gospel this year."

Miss E. Turner sends us the following extract from a letter received from **Miss E. Collins** of Cherchell :— "I had Zohra for the day on Sunday. What a friend she is—the joy and rejoicing of one's heart ; I was going to leave the washing-up until after she had gone, but she insisted on doing it. She said, 'Do you know, I always think like this—if God called me suddenly I would not like to leave this all untidy.' What a rebuke ; I began to think, everything that I do—does it meet with His approval ?

"I have your hand-painted pictures in my little sitting-room. The largest one is a country scene, two small houses hidden by the green trees. Zohra stood before it and said, 'You know, that picture rests me.' She loves quietness, and sometimes I have thought that, being all alone, she must have begun to know what it is to walk with God. The first time I saw her, last December (on arriving at Cherchell), she looked so forlorn and sad, but now she has her sparkle back again. Perhaps I should say she has found God in a new way. She is going to give the message at the women's meeting next week, D.V. . . . When she went home on Sunday she said, 'It has been like a holiday to me.'"

From Tunis **Miss H. M. M. Tapp** writes :— "I have been cheered and much encouraged by the way my many Arab friends have remembered the texts and hymns they learnt in class or visiting. Six years is a long time, especially with the turmoil of war. I know head knowledge is not everything, but we have the promise, 'My Word shall not return to me void.'"

Miss E. Brookes, recently returned to Tunis, sends the following paragraph :— "A couple of days ago a friend and I visited an Arab woman who, as a girl, learned to read Arabic. The Missionary had not seen her for four years or more, but she had not forgotten how to read, for she had from time to time been reading her Gospel of Luke in Arabic. She could still quote a Psalm or two and many Scripture verses, rejoicing the hearts of her two hearers. She gave praise to God for His deliverance in time of danger when the house in which she was, and another not far away, were the only two left standing after a bombing

raid. I have been joyfully received by those of early days whom I have been able to contact. May it be the beginning of many more happy contacts."

From the **Misses Clack and Jones**, of Nabeul : "We have fourteen girls on the roll for Friday-mornings, and they really are learning the texts well and taking in the Bible story. We seek to teach them His Word as much as possible, believing that 'the entrance of it will give light and understanding to the simple.' In visiting, too, it is good to hear old class girls (now little mothers) say that when their children are old enough they want them to come and hear God's Word."

Congratulations

FRIENDS of Rev. and Mrs. R. I. Brown will be delighted to learn of the safe arrival on the 29th April, at Brighton, of a little daughter—Christine Ruth.

Our forthcoming Meetings

You are cordially invited to our Spring Meetings which will be held (D.V.) on Thursday, May 23rd, 1946, at 3.30 and 6 p.m. in the Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster (near St. James's Park Station). Afternoon—Chairman : E. T. Morriss, Esq. ; Speakers : Missionaries from the Field. Evening—Chairman : Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor ; Speakers : Brief Messages from newly-returned Missionaries. Closing Message from the Rev. Guy H. King, A.K.C. Prayer Meeting from 3 to 3.25 p.m. to be conducted by Mr. Ernest J. Long.

Notice to friends in the London Area

WE are resuming our Monthly Prayer Meeting at Headquarters, GOD willing, on Wednesday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. Will interested friends in the London area, whose presence we shall greatly welcome, kindly note that such gatherings will be continued henceforth on the first Wednesday of each month—with the exception of August. Tea will be served at 3 p.m. prompt. It is well to observe that the nearest Underground Station is Archway, not Highgate, and that by taking a 611 trolleybus from just outside the station, Bisham Gardens—which is the last stop before the bus terminus—is reached in about three minutes.