

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

# The N.A.M. News Letter



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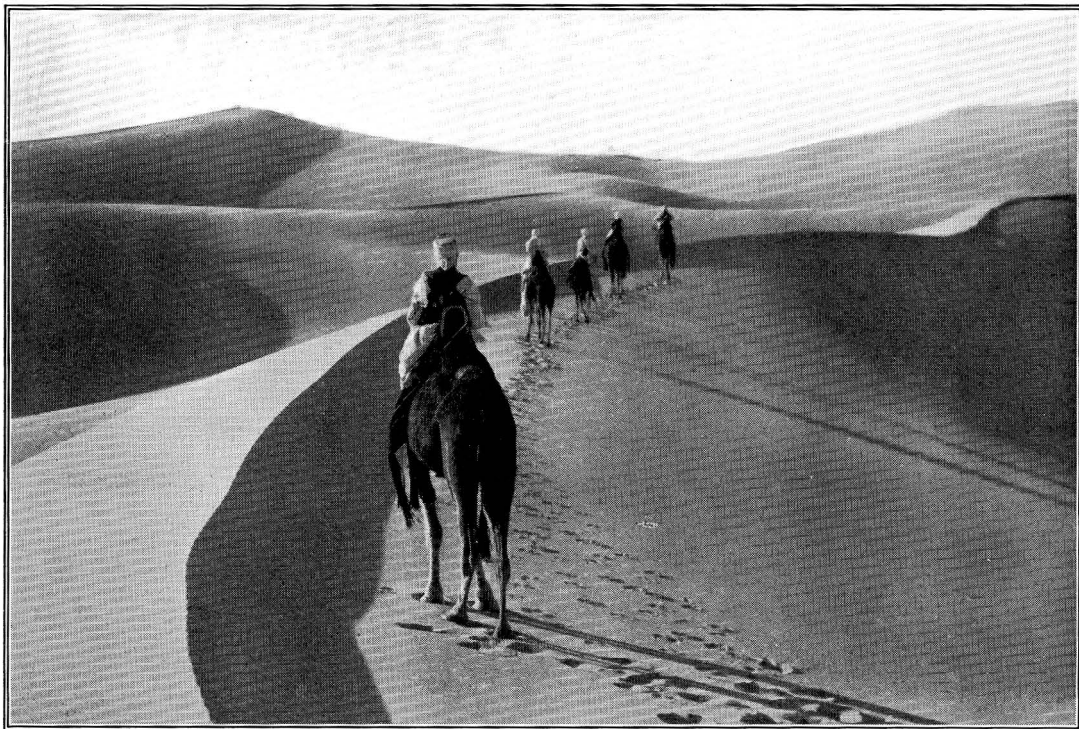
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GENERAL SECRETARY, ERNEST J. LONG

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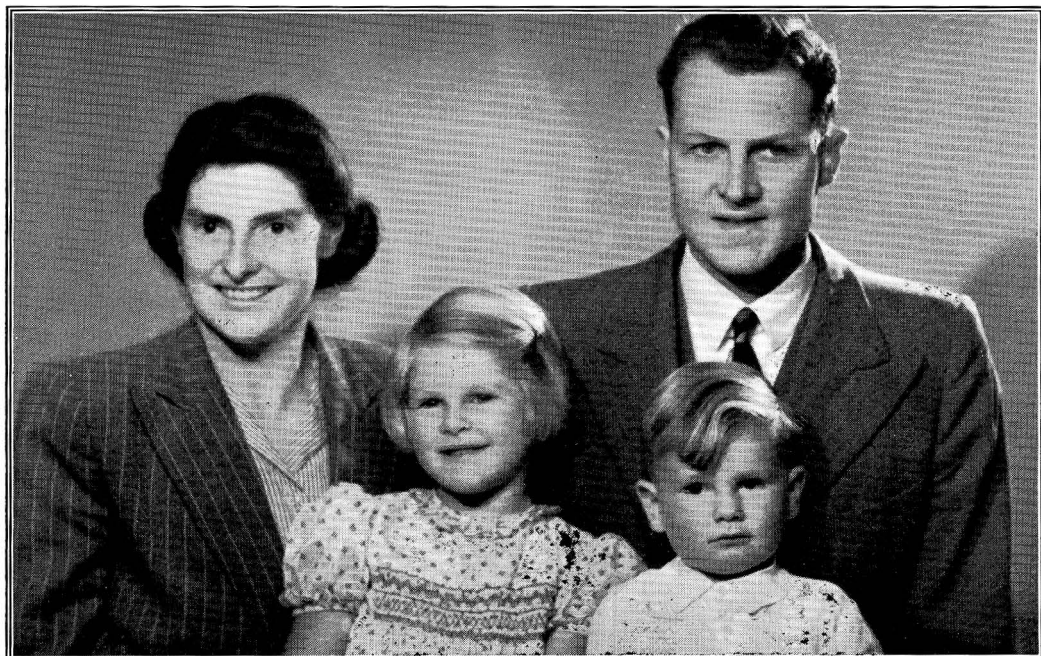
"INTO THE DESERT"

*Islam is the religion of the Desert Lands that sweep across the Northern Hemisphere in a vast crescent from Mongolia to West Africa. In those "dry and thirsty lands" of the world's great belt of sands live some 200,000,000 Moslems,\* whose evangelisation is the most colossal problem with which the Church of Christ has ever been confronted.*

*This is the Devil's stronghold, for these millions of enslaved peoples are not merely non-Christian, but anti-Christian—victims of the Devil's lie.*

*"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert." Philip was led by the Spirit to Gaza, "which is desert." And only the Spirit-led today go down into the Desert of Islam, whether to preach or to pray. The Moslem world is the acid test of a Church's faith.*

\*The world aggregate of Moslems approximates 300,000,000



MR. AND MRS. PETER J. PATCHING, JENNIFER AND ANDREW

## Our New Workers

WE have already made brief mention, in former issues of the "News Letter," to four of the five missionary candidates whose photographs are published on these pages. Three of them, together with our latest recruit, Mr. Bernard Collinson, were on the platform at our Valedictory Meetings on September 27th, and gave heartening accounts of their call to missionary service. The fifth recruit, **Miss Winifred Sellwood**, had the best of excuses for being absent: she had already begun her language study in Paris.

**Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Patching** are from St. James's Evangelical Free Church, Worthing—although they are also bound by the strongest ties to a warm-hearted spiritual fellowship at Chichester. With their children, Jennifer and Andrew, they spent the summer months at Lannion, in Brittany, where their very good school French was "brushed up", and conversational facility acquired. In mid-November, God willing, our friends leave for Tunis. Whilst they will have before them as their ultimate objective work among the Moslems of Tunisia, it is hoped that, whilst studying Arabic, they will be used of God in consolidating and establishing the European witness at "Bethesda," thus strengthening the hands of Miss Gotelee,

upon whom the burden has mainly rested since the retirement of Miss Petter.

A glance at the photograph above will assure our readers that, under the blessing of God, a happy devoted Christian family may bear a winsome testimony to the Lord Jesus in needy Tunis.

By spending the month of September at the hospitable home of the Rev. and Mrs. C. W. Procter in Paris, and attending the French Course at the Alliance Française, **Miss Winifred Sellwood**, who is already well grounded in French grammar, made the wisest possible preparation for the Bible Study that she has now begun at the "Institut Biblique" founded by the late Pasteur Reuben Saillens.

**Miss E. Olwen Pierce**, a graduate of Redcliffe Bible College, is a qualified nurse and midwife, and was blessed of God as a soul-winner during her six years' sojourn as Midwife at the home for unmarried mothers at Abergavenny. She left England (in company with Miss Gotelee) in mid-October, and is now associated with Miss Jennie Wilberforce in the work of the Medical Mission at Tripoli. We are thankful to God for providing Dr. and Mrs. Liley with this additional, much-needed help.

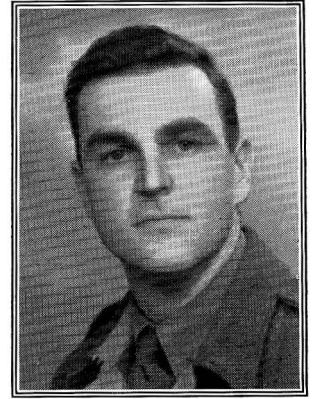
**Mr. Bernard Collinson** has recently completed his studies at the All Nations Bible



MISS WINIFRED I. SELLWOOD



MISS E. OLWEN PIERCE



MR. BERNARD COLLINSON

College, and comes to us with the warmest commendation of its Principal Emeritus, the Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor. His father is Mr. W. Cecil Collinson, so well known through his association with the Egypt General Mission and the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems.

Mr. Bernard Collinson returned recently to Paris to resume his language studies (French, and the elements of Arabic and Chaouia), and we earnestly trust, as we have written elsewhere in this "News Letter," that the day is not far distant when our brother will be able to continue, at Menâa in the Aurès Mountains, the splendid work so nobly begun by our late missionary Mr. Charles Cook.

We commend these keen and consecrated young people to our readers' prayers. They go forth in a day of unparalleled difficulty; but "the Master of the Impossible" is with them. He will never fail them.

### *Homecall of Charles Cook of Menâa*

In the early morning of September 4th, following a sudden seizure, the Lord called our gallant brother, Mr. Charles Cook, to His Presence. His body now awaits the Resurrection, not in a European cemetery, for there is none at Menâa, but in that beautiful garden amidst the Aurès Mountains in which his own hands had so often wrought with loving industry.

Despite his English-sounding name, Charles Cook was of French nationality. His father was a French pastor who had gained wide missionary experience in Algeria and Morocco, and the son early shared his father's deep concern for the evangelisation of the Berbers. There was a

particular burden for the hitherto unreached Chaouia people.

Provisionally accepted by the N.A.M. Council in June, 1927, at the very early age of nineteen, Charles Cook left for Kabylia in the autumn of 1929 (having then completed his military training with the French Army), and studied Kabyle whilst living with Mr. Lamb at Tabarouth. In August, 1930, he married Mlle. Suzanne Manoel, and the young couple took up their residence at Batna, from which centre our brother's Gospel itineraries brought him often into touch with the Chaouia folk. He made good progress in language study, and eventually had the joy of getting published, through the kindness of the Scripture Gift Mission, a Chaouia translation of "God Hath Spoken."

In the late autumn of 1938 the Cooks removed to the Chaouia village of Menâa; but within a year war had been declared, and Charles was immediately called up and posted to the Algerian Tirailleurs. At the eventual Normandy landings our brother, who was then a Chaplain with the rank of Captain, won the Croix de Guerre. In June, 1945, he was involved in a serious accident whilst driving his "jeep," but appeared to make a remarkably quick recovery. However, the head injury must have been graver than was at the time suspected, for not long after the family's return from France to Menâa, brain trouble flared up. Surgical intervention failed to effect a complete cure, for there were agonising head-aches, "black-outs," and a steady deterioration in the general health.

Nevertheless, the Homecall came with unexpected suddenness. We are thankful that Mr. Arthur and Mr. Ewing were fairly accessible, and able to be present at the time of Mrs. Cook's greatest need.

Charles Cook's unfinished task among the Chaouia is a great challenge ; but how delighted he would have been to know that, only a few weeks before his Homecall, the Lord had already burdened the heart of Mr. Bernard Collinson, one of our most recent recruits, with this very need.

We are sure that our readers will be much in prayer for Mrs. Cook and her four children, as well as for Menâa itself until such time as the thoroughly-equipped successor is ready to build upon Charles Cook's well-laid " foundation."

### *Our Valedictory Meetings*

Evangelistic work among Moslems is tremendously complicated in the great North African cities by Rome's caricature of the Christian Faith. In Tunis the Roman Catholic Cathedral is perpetually parading before Mohammedan crowds the image-worship that is so abominable to the Moslem, and thus bringing Christianity into deep contempt. Even from the standpoint of missionary strategy, therefore, it is most desirable that there should be raised up in Tunis City a sound, evangelical Church of European believers to challenge this blasphemous caricature.

Such was the main theme of an excellent message given by **Miss K. M. E. Gotelee** at the afternoon gathering of the N.A.M. Valedictory Meetings, held on September 27th at the Livingstone Hall. The Chair was taken on this occasion by the **Rev. T. J. P. Warren**, Secretary for Field Affairs ; and his own brief message was of the choice quality one has come to expect from him.

Both at the afternoon and evening meetings earnest and appealing testimonies were given by five recruits—**Mr. and Mrs. Peter Patching**, designated for work in Tunis ; **Miss Mary Huntington**, proceeding to Casablanca to help in the European witness there ; **Miss Olwen Pierce**, leaving shortly to assist Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Liley in their Medical Mission at Tripoli ; and **Mr. Bernard Collinson** (son of Mr. W. Cecil Collinson), returning to Paris to resume his studies in French, Arabic and Chaouia. **Miss Madge Hutchinson** also spoke helpfully.

At the evening gathering, ably presided over by **Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith**, **Miss Ada Clack** was the main missionary speaker. She gave an arresting account of missionary labours in Nabeul, a station on the Cape Bon peninsula that featured in the closing stages of the North Africa campaign.

The **Rev. Godfrey Robinson** was the closing speaker ; and no message could have been more tender or more challenging than that which had

been suggested by the words " He showed them His Hands." Today the Risen Lord can only bless, and heal, through hands that are yielded to His service : " Christ has no hands but my hands . . . "

The outgoing missionary candidates, together with the returning senior workers, were commended to GOD in prayer by the **Rev. Harold W. Stalley** of the Algiers Mission Band.

### *To Correct a Misunderstanding*

It has come to our knowledge that quite a number of friends appear to be under a misapprehension concerning the respective spheres of Miss Elsie Fraser and the Rev. Harold Fife.

We desire therefore to make it perfectly clear that **Miss Fraser's** splendid work as our honorary Deputation Secretary is neither superseded nor even duplicated by Mr. Fife's appointment to the post of Council Representative. Our brother, whose two official tours of our Mission Stations have been of immense administrative value, is now in the United States for a period of three months—addressing many gatherings, and meeting and challenging many Bible College students.

In the Homeland **Mr. Fife** will, God willing, engage in such week-end pulpit ministry as does not come within the province of Miss Fraser's engagements, and will make special endeavours to reach young men already in training at College or University. He will doubtless use his missionary Films where their employment would prove of special value : but Miss Fraser still remains our all-the-year-round, general-purposes Deputation Secretary, whose gifted services we so greatly prize.

### *France, the Franc and our " family "*

The further de-valuation of the franc reflects the ever-worsening plight of that stricken country, France. As we write, the coal-strike situation gets uglier day by day. Communism is tightening its strangle-grip. Earnest prayer for France is a wise investment. Nothing else can pay comparable dividends.

North Africa reacts sensitively and immediately to French troubles. Prices are soaring. More and more francs are buying less and less. Our N.A.M. " family " is growing steadily, and our faith, evidenced by this forward step, is being challenged at the moment by depleted coffers. It is understandable that we need a substantially-increased income month by month in order to send more adequate allowances to the Field. Will you remember this in your prayers ?