

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

# The N.A.M. News Letter



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Photo by]

[E. C. Le Grice, F.R.P.S.

## Near Djemaa Sahridj, Kabylia

The daughters of one of our outstanding Kabyle converts photographed last Spring in the fields near Djemaa. (See article "New Arrivals at our Oldest Station" on page three).

## “Great is Thy Faithfulness”— 1950 in review

In the great goodness of God the past year has undoubtedly been one of decided advance in North Africa. The facts speak for themselves, and may be tabulated thus:—

1. The occupation of two new Stations in Morocco.
2. The re-occupation of Kairouan “the Holy” early in 1951, made possible through the securing of a Mission House there.
3. The strengthening of the ranks of our workers in Kabylia by doubling the Mission Staff at Djemaa Sahridj.
4. The building-up of the Tripoli “bridge-head,” which now numbers six missionaries.
5. The inauguration in France (outside Paris) of an organised endeavour to evangelise the many thousands of North Africans residing there.
6. The acquisition of three further motor cars (two of them of the “utility van” type), assuring greater mobility and wider radius in Gospel itineration work.
7. The opening of Book Shops—veritable “Lighthouses”—in Tripoli and Tangier.

All such progress is the result of initiative and industry, begotten in faith and sustained by prayer, and we know that many dear friends in the Homeland have shared the vision and helped to pray—and pay—it through into actuality.

*But in the realm of finance the situation was never more serious than it is to-day. Consolidation of 1950's advances can only be assured by sanctified and sacrificial giving. Such giving during 1951 may “hasten the Coming” of our Lord Jesus Christ by accelerating the ingathering of those “other sheep” in Moslem North Africa.*

## An Opening Door

In my last letter I asked you to pray that the permit to do medical work here might soon be given by the authorities. This has not come through so far, and I am told one may have to wait even as long as a whole year. However, I have felt I should not refuse any longer to help the sick folk who come to my door, so I am doing simple things such as “eyes” and “sores,” which are very prevalent at this time of year. Of course, I am careful to send any really ill patients to the hospital and not to have fees or set hours; but in a small way I feel I am getting known, and I cannot offend the authorities. So many doors are open. I am often asked to go

and visit in their homes those women who never go out; and country folk come in from their distant villages on market-days, and one looks forward to the time when such contacts can be followed up, and one is really free to work as one would.

I see in my “Daily Light” that it is just a year ago that the call to this place\* was confirmed, and the promises that were given to me then have been proved so true: “He led them on safely” (Ps. 78, v. 53). “They got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them; but Thy right hand and Thine arm, and the light of Thy countenance, because Thou hadst a favour unto them” (Ps. 44, v. 3). “So didst Thou lead Thy people, to make Thyself a glorious name” (Isa. 63, v. 14). So we would give Him all the praise, and pray that there may be those here who shall bring glory to His name, by faith in our Lord and Saviour, through hearing the Word and receiving it into their hearts.

—From Miss D. M. Henman.

\*It is not yet wise to publish the name of the place where Miss Dorcas Henman is working. Editor.

## New Arrivals at our Oldest Station

These last twelve days since our arrival in the land have been so filled with interest and fascination, that we are only now beginning to see things in perspective . . . .

The weather has been just glorious since our arrival. Today again the sky is blue and cloudless—like an English Spring . . . .

Our first impressions of Djemaa have been very favourable. We have been amazed at the dexterity of Mr. Willson and his capacity for work in a multitude of trades. Both he and Mrs. Willson have received us so graciously—we are living with them for a few days yet while the cottage is prepared for occupation.

Though most of our time has been spent at the cottage so far, we have had our first experience of donkey riding to Mekla (by the old road!) and we have been visiting once with Mr. Willson. This morning he and I were at the Mekla market. That was quite an illuminating experience!

I am amazed that the boys and young men are willing to gather so freely for singing and instruction. Mr. Willson's classes are grand. On Wednesday evening we had forty or so for a lantern meeting, while the Sunday afternoon meeting was quite well attended . . . .

Mr. Willson has been a great help to us in preparing the cottage. It is sad to see the large

building so badly in need of repair — a costly business! The Friday girls' class, in which Joyce will be aiding Mrs. Willson, will be held in this building.

Joyce is keeping well. She and I feel that we shall be very happy in the work here. The educational opportunities of the village bring an openness of mind which can be exploited to God's glory.

The hills around have again been sun-bathed to-day. This is a glorious spot!

—From the Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Collinson.

## Our first glimpse of Tangier

"A warm welcome in warm weather" describes our first impression of Tangier and its N.A.M. missionaries.

The first sight of the town was in bright sunshine at mid-day. The sky was deep blue, the sea a deeper blue and the white buildings shone against the darker background of trees and hills. We were welcomed by Miss Andrew, Mr. Bocking and Mr. Cooper, who were at the quay to meet us and bring us to our new home and sphere of service.

What a lot we saw on that drive from the ship to Hope House! There were large stores and small native shops, people in European dress and barefooted natives, the latest cars and heavily laden donkeys — all mixed up together. So this is Africa! It brought a thrill!

We received another welcome from the nursing staff and other friends in our new home and still another from the patients in the wards, who were anxiously waiting to see the new nurses.

When we started our duties in the hospital it did not take us long to realise that the temporal and physical needs of these poor sufferers spoke of a much greater spiritual need. One writer penned these words: "The need! Oh God, the need!" as if in despair. It is indeed a challenge! Can such lives be transformed? For many years the Seed has been sown; it has been watered by prayer and there has been an increase, but there is still much to be done. We dare to believe that there shall be a greater harvest! By His grace we will lay hold upon God until we are rejoicing not only in bodies being healed, or even in souls professing salvation, but in men and women walking closer day by day with the Master, living to glorify Him and pointing others to Calvary! . . .

Arabic is sinking into the "grey matter" slowly but surely, we hope. It is quite an interesting language, though I must confess I

wish I had never tried shorthand first! However, the Lord will undertake.

—From Miss G. Tridgell and Miss K. B. Carter.

## Among Moors and Spaniards in Tetuan

We are once more three in family and have settled down to the routine work. The boys are gathering on Fridays for their drawing class, young married women and older girls come on Tuesdays for knitting, and younger girls on Thursdays. The smallest one is five-year-old Rashida from next door, a bright little girl who is quickly learning the texts and choruses and repeating them at home, too. We find these neighbours of ours very difficult to reach with the Gospel, and are praying that the Lord will use this little child to open their hearts to Him.

We have started once again going out to the villages as we have opportunity, and have been encouraged by the friendly reception so far. A fortnight ago we visited a lovely valley not very far from here where there are several villages. We left the car and walked through to the nearest village, speaking to various little groups, and quite a crowd of women and children gathered round us while we talked to them of the Good Shepherd, and they asked us to visit them again soon.

Last week we went near the place where the Thursday market is held and sat down by the roadside. It was early afternoon and time for the market-goers to wend their way home, some on foot and others riding on donkeys. Quite soon a group passed and one of them recognised us and asked for eye ointment for his children. Nearly all of them then discovered that they had aches and pains, but they patiently listened while we spoke to them first of their need of the Lord Jesus as their Saviour . . .

The Spanish Church continues to flourish. Last month the members sent Antonio, the young voluntary Pastor, to a conference in Madrid, as their representative. He was very encouraged by this contact with fellow-believers in his own land, and the fellowship was a great blessing and help. The young men always meet for Bible study during the week, and a similar class for the young women is needed, and we are glad that Antonio's wife is thinking about this. A Sunday School is being started now, and we ask your prayers in view of the priest's endeavour to keep a hold on all schoolchildren.

—From the Misses E. Bradbury, E. Low and G. Carty.

## “This Daughter of Abraham . . .”

You will rejoice in the way prayer is being answered on behalf of the Jewish girl (S—, aged about 15), mentioned in previous letters. God is giving her strength to stand whilst almost completely cut off from contacts with us. You will remember that things were difficult at home, and that after the baptism of M— (another Jewish young lady) opposition stiffened. S— is prevented from coming to Classes and is forbidden to visit us or speak to us. Her reading matter is censored and her New Testament has been taken away—even her Old Testament being torn up after she had witnessed in her home concerning Isaiah 53.

This summer, while she still possessed her own Testament, S— wished to witness to an Arab lad, and sent him to buy a New Testament for her. This she gave to him and at first he seemed interested. He started reading it, and then was afraid of being found with it, so threw it from his window into the open window of our young friend's mother—and told the girl what he had done. She quickly recovered it before it could be confiscated. Her own New Testament disappeared soon afterwards and the other has since met her needs. Having carefully prepared a hiding place outside her home, she had recently purchased a reference Bible, which we trust will remain at her disposal. This is but one case; her friend, of about the same age, has somewhat similar difficulties, with the exception that she has a little easier access to the Word of God.

V—, the Jewish young man, is still severely tried by circumstances but resists firmly. He knows that his next step is baptism, and is determined to take it, but as he has no father and is the eldest son, he is head of the family, so that his difficulties seem insurmountable. Rabbinic pressure will almost certainly force his family to disown him (whether they would wish to or not) and thereby exclude the breadwinner from the home.

As an immediate result of M—'s baptism last Whitsun, her parents disowned her and she has an official document to that effect. It was only by means of this paper that she was able to obtain a passport, and she is at present studying at a Bible School in Switzerland.

—From the Rev. and Mrs. Peter Patching.

## Reaching the Children in Tripoli

We are so thankful to the Lord that He has again given us a group of little ones to whom to minister. On October 13th we commenced classes for girls. At 2 p.m. on that Friday after-

noon we admitted 14 rather timid girls whose ages ranged from 6 - 14 years. Week by week, as the news spread, more and more came to be enrolled, and so we decided to hold a separate class for the older ones. This is held on Thursday afternoons. We teach them hymns and choruses and give them a Scripture lesson in Arabic and end up with an English lesson, as they are all very keen to learn English. We need much prayer for this class as these big girls are a real handful. We feel that they are the devil's special target as they are so intelligent and seem to have grasped the Gospel truths already.

The Friday class is a real delight. We have some hundred names on the register and about 60 of these come each week. They have to put in three attendances before being given a square of material on which to learn to sew. We now have 40 who have qualified. Aisha and another native woman come to help us. The latter attended the classes in the old days and volunteered to come and help us. She is outwardly a hardened Moslem, but she certainly knows the Truth and is a great help to us with the sewing as she is a sewing mistress. Miss Pierce and Miss Wilberforce also help with the class, so our problem is not shortage of helpers but lack of large enough accommodation. Up to the present Fridays have dawned sunny and warm and we have held the class in the open courtyard. When the colder weather comes we shall have to move into the waiting-room, and it will be a tight squeeze, to say the least! But how grateful we are for the roomy courtyard, where even the bigger girls can play without fear of prying eyes.

Please pray that none will hinder the little ones from coming to learn of Him. We feel how great is our responsibility towards them, as some are allowed to come just once and perhaps that will be the only time they will hear the Gospel. We had this brought home very vividly to us last week when a little girl who has attended since the beginning died in her home as the result of a fall. She had heard of and sung about the City Bright whose gates are closed to sin.

Now the boys are asking when we are going to start classes for them. It is a question of being able to find a time that suits them, when the Dispensary is closed. We are doing in one house now what used to be done in two houses in the old days! We need much wisdom in the planning of our programme. There is always plenty of visiting to be done in connection with the Dispensary and the classes are a means of opening fresh homes.

—From Mr. and Mrs. Norman Pearce.