

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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No. 78

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

JULY-AUGUST, 1951



Photo by]

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

The Main Street, Kairouan

KAIROUAN REOCCUPIED !

Early in April an air-mailed post-card was delivered at Mission Headquarters. It bore the following thrilling message: "Hallelujah! Arrived yesterday. Marvellously helped. Let us have a solid backing of prayer! Love, Browns."

The earnest intercessions of many years had prevailed. The "holy city" of the Barbary States had, for the first time since 1931, been reoccupied by resident missionaries.

Now read the opening paragraphs on Page Two.

Reoccupation of Kairouan "the Holy"

The actual removal to Kairouan went off very well indeed, and in the preliminary settling-in we have been so conscious of the prayer invested in us. We have the privilege of a nice spacious house, but we have a lot to do before we shall be straight.

Let me give you a few impressions just as they have come to us. I was working in our back courtyard and on the other side of the wall a group of Arabs were also working. As they toiled they chanted rhythmically the Arab creed. Then I went to the front of the house to meet the postman and in the course of conversation he said he remembered our predecessors, and he was happy to take away a Gospel of John with him. I went to the market to make a few purchases and the Arab from whom I bought the meat found time in the few seconds that he needed to make a brief calculation to assert: "And Mohammed is the apostle of God." I went on farther and whilst in another shop we saw a group hustling by and were informed that a young Arab was being hurried off to prison for speaking against the religion! This shopkeeper, too, was glad to have a little booklet which would show him not a religion, but a living Saviour.

So it goes on, and everything reminds us that we are in the "holy city," a stronghold of Islam. And who is sufficient for these things? Our sufficiency is of God. Pray that we may be unsparing in our use and distribution of the Word of God; that we may by life and lip exalt our Lord and Saviour; that He will prepare hearts and open doors for us. We have a great and challenging task before us—the great city itself, its scores of settlements all around; many who have never heard the Gospel, the older ones who heard it many years ago. Spasmodic prayer is not sufficient; only costly, sustained prayer will force the Adversary back and enable souls to come out of bondage into His light.

—From Rev. and Mrs. R. I. Brown, Boulevard Es-sahabi, Kairouan, Tunisia.

How You can Help Us

If the work of the N.A.M. is to grow, or even to be maintained at the present level, we must add materially to the number of our active supporters, and this clearly calls for a considerable extension of our deputation activities.

You can help us, dear friend, if you are able to arrange a meeting in a live centre where hitherto the Lord's work in North Africa has

not been represented. Our regular deputation speakers will be very happy to address gatherings organised for them, utilising excellent missionary films wherever they are desired. Missionaries on furlough are also eager to help during the summer months.

If you can assist in any way, and particularly if you feel led of God to become Secretary of a Local Auxiliary of the N.A.M., will you kindly write to the General Secretary?

Neglected Oases of Tunisia

We went recently on a trip down South. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were still here to look after the place and this would be our only opportunity to go away for more than a day or two, so we packed "Bildad" (our tiny car) and set off toward the port of Sfax. We meant to go by El Djem, but got on to the wrong road and found ourselves heading for Mehdiya, a tiny fishing-port of which we had never even heard! This is on a little-travelled coast road, none too good, but we found it fascinating new territory. We left literature wherever it was possible. Sometimes it was refused in the villages, but we noticed that if we dropped it out of the car so that it blew back to them, wayfarers scrambled for it. This was especially true of the travellers wending their way on donkeys or camels or in carts. Through the rear-view mirror we watched these individuals pull up their beasts, climb down and retrieve the pamphlets and climb back aloft to read as they jogged along. We were so glad to see this because it meant they were able to get their first reading of the Gospel message without the objectionable comments of any bystanders who might point out that they were reading "heresy." We prayed each time that they might read and live.

At Sousse we only stopped for petrol and left Gospels in Arabic and French with the garage-man and his young son. At Sfax we passed the night in a hotel, leaving some Gospels for the reading-room there. Next morning we headed South again for Gafsa, where Mabel was stationed before the war. The road she formerly took was said to be bad, so we went by way of Oudref, a truly hundred-per-cent Moslem village. The road through the village was all torn up and we had to ask if the road beyond was all right. The foreman of the road gang read Arabic, so we gave him a Gospel. One felt sad to think that it must have been years since anybody else had passed that way with the message of Life. We dropped some tracts and picture texts for a group of school-boys, who dived for them regardless of the dust raised in our wake.

At Gafsa, reached by noon after a delightful trip over a splendid road, we had a cordial welcome at the hotel where we had lunch. The Proprietor remembered Mabel and gave news of old friends. We pressed on to Tozeur, down in the desert in the date country. Neither of us had ever been this far south. A worse 60 miles we have seldom travelled. Just 20 miles from Tozeur we picked up a nail. You know

services. While getting the tank filled, an Arab recognised her, and upon her asking after a certain Jewish man, he ran and fetched him. We all did a rapid exchange of news and they pressed us to stay on, but we couldn't, and had to promise to return another time. Our next few hours' travel, with a picnic lunch consumed as we drove through the desert, brought us to the sea again at the port of Gabes, the last big



Sweeping wind-borne sand from the Gabès road

that sinking feeling! We had barely time even to formulate a prayer before the Lord sent a car along, driven by a kind French gentleman, accompanied by his son, who changed the wheel for us. What a relief that was!

At Tozeur accommodation was provided for us by the hotel in a little building in the oasis gardens. It was delicious spring air in the desert, with bright flowers and bird-songs as well. We had several chats with the boys of the hotel, who were glad we spoke Arabic. They all knew the missionary who formerly lived here, whom we know. Many there refused literature and seemed hostile until they found we would rather speak to them in Arabic, and that we weren't French. A bicycle shop repaired the puncture and put air in the tyres for us, and we began our return trip next morning, glad to get that terrible stretch of road behind us. At Gafsa, while the garage boy changed the motor oil, Mabel chatted with the Proprietor, who is now living in her old digs. He remembered her and was cordial, not charging anything for his

town on the road to Tripoli. Ada had never been there before, though she was once named to go there to work years ago. We have had a decided feeling for Gabes for some time—several years now. In fact, we have asked the Council to consider the matter, and would appreciate your prayers about this, that they and we may know the mind of the Lord about our going there. It means finding a couple for Nabeul and a house at Gabes, if it is His plan for us to go.

Our trek of 750 miles was a grand experience and made us feel like new creatures—not a single hitch, except for the flat tyre. "Bildad" did the work valiantly—a better friend to us than Job's was to him—carrying us along like any giant, though he is only "shoe-hite"! We do thank the Lord for that little car.

May the Lord bless you every one and give you joy in your ministry of prayer for us in this work. Pray on—until He come!

—From the Misses Ada Clack and Mabel Jones, Nabeul, Tunisia.

NORTH AFRICA

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

RECEIPTS															
							GENERAL FUND			DESIGNATED FUND			TOTAL		
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FOR GENERAL PURPOSES															
	Donations	...	...	...	...	...	9,452	3	11						
	Legacies	...	...	...	...	...	2,380	6	6						
	Publications	...	...	...	...	...	63	10	2						
	Dividends and Tax refunded	...	...	...	...	...	18	2	6						
	Rents from Properties	...	...	...	...	...	30	19	4						
													11,945	2	5
FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES															
SPECIALLY SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES—															
	Donations	...	...	...	...	...				4,345	7	4			
MEDICAL MISSIONS															
	Donations	...	...	...	...	...			16	10	0				
	Contributions from Patients and Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...			2,123	18	5				
	Dividend on Investment and Tax refunded for Women's Hospital	...	...	...	...	...			117	5	6				
													6,603	1	3
VARIOUS DESIGNATED OBJECTS															
	Donations	...	...	...	...	...				547	13	9			
LITERATURE FUND—															
	Donation	...	...	...	...	...				20	0	0			
FOR GENERAL FUND (for subsequent use)—															
	Donation	...	...	...	...	...				500	0	0			
	Legacy	...	...	...	...	...				1,500	0	0			
													2,567	13	9
GLENNY MEMORIAL FUND—															
	Dividends on Investments and Tax refunded	...	...	...	...	...				97	2	0			97 2 0
SALE OF PROPERTY—															
	House at Mekla	...	...	...	...	...	844	9	8						844 9 8
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR							12,789	12	1	9,267	17	0	22,057	9	1
BALANCES at Bankers, etc., as at 31st December, 1949															
	For Designated Purposes	...	...	...	...	...				2,756	4	4			
	For General Purposes	...	...	...	...	...	329	16	9				3,086	1	1
							£13,119	8	10	£12,024	1	4	£25,143	10	2

We have examined the above Statement of Receipts and Payments of the North Africa Mission as received from the Missionaries as are available, and certify that, in our opinion, it correctly summarizes the same.

Law Courts Chambers,
33/34 Chancery Lane,
W.C.2

A MISSION

Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

	PAYMENTS								
	GENERAL FUND			DESIGNATED FUND			TOTAL		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
MISSIONARIES AND THEIR WORK									
MAINTENANCE, RENT, ETC.—									
Missionaries' Maintenance	7,527	13	2	4,413	2	3			
Missionaries' Rent and House Expenses	795	3	11						
Rent and Station Expenses (Meeting Rooms, etc.)	288	14	5						
Native Helpers engaged in Missionary Work	20	0	0						
Travelling, Furloughs and Freight	688	11	2	277	19	0			
							14,011	3	11
COLLATERAL EXPENSES—									
Work, General and Sundry Expenses	648	4	9	264	3	9			
Colportage, Bible Depot				69	16	8			
Rent, Rates and Repairs				124	0	0			
Car Expenses and Itinerary	35	0	0	28	13	0			
Removal and Furnishing	40	0	0						
							1,209	18	2
MEDICAL MISSIONS—									
Rent, Taxes, Repairs, Fuel and Lighting				172	19	9			
Drugs, Instruments and Food Relief				1,269	3	6			
Wages, Freight and Customs				744	12	7			
Printing, Stationery, Telephone and Sundries				109	18	4			
Travelling	37	0	0						
							2,333	14	2
TOTAL DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR MISSIONARIES AND THEIR WORK	10,080	7	5	7,474	8	10	17,554	16	3
HOME PAYMENTS									
PUBLICATIONS—									
Printing, Postage " News Letter "	196	7	6						
Other Printing, Postage and Publication Expenses	150	2	3						
							346	9	9
MEETINGS—									
Deputation Expenses, Travelling, Postage, Printing, etc.	439	3	8						
							439	3	8
OFFICE—									
Rates, Repairs, Fuel, Lighting, Cleaning and Insurance	156	13	8						
Salaries, Wages and State Insurance	1,429	1	7						
Postages, Printing, Telephone, etc.	242	5	6						
Travelling, Legal and Sundries	33	16	5						
							1,861	17	2
OTHER PAYMENTS—									
To General Fund (included in Donations)				1,040	0	0			
Interest on Private Loan	5	10	0						
							1,045	10	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	12,733	8	0	8,514	8	10	21,247	16	10
BALANCES at Bankers and in Hand on the Field at 31st December, 1950									
For Designated Purposes				3,509	12	6			
For General Purposes	386	0	10				3,895	13	4
	£13,119	8	10	£12,024	1	4	£25,143	10	2

For the year ended 31st December, 1950, with the Books and Vouchers at Head Office and such Statements and Transactions of the Mission for the year.

News from the Tangier Hospital

1. A NEW "T.B." WARD.

Tuberculosis is one of our biggest problems here. Farnham often sees fifteen to twenty new cases in one out-patient morning. We cannot admit many into the wards as our beds are so few and patients may require several months of treatment. But we have great hopes of building a special T.B. Ward this summer. We now have sufficient funds to start, for which we do thank God. Please pray for wisdom in the planning of the buildings and the getting of beds, blankets, sheets and other equipment. The Staff, too, will be a problem, and we shall value prayer that the right native Christian helpers may be found. Finally, when all is prepared, pray that we may be guided to admit out of the many who need treatment those patients who will respond to the Gospel.

—From Mrs. Farnham St. John.

2. THE MEN'S WARD.

The work in the Men's Ward is very varied in character, and so are the patients. Thinking about them, one realises the tremendous need there is out here, both physical and spiritual. There are men whose physical condition has been brought about by lack of care, insufficient food, and unhygienic living conditions. We have a young man in the ward now who is suffering from advanced tuberculosis. As far as we can tell he is a believer; he is grateful for all that is done for him, and his behaviour in the ward leads one to think that he has a peace in his heart that only the Lord Jesus can give.

The response of the patients to the Gospel is varied. Some are indifferent, while some welcome the stories which they hear, and others are definitely opposed to the teaching of Christ. A few weeks ago the Devil seemed to be very busy disturbing the atmosphere of the ward and making it very difficult to speak for the Lord, but now things are better. Although, as far as we know, there have been no definite conversions, we rejoice that the spirit of God is working. There is a change in several of the patients. Some who were rather demanding at first are becoming more grateful, and one asked why Doctor did so much for them and didn't receive any extra money for his services.

A few weeks ago a man from Tetuan was admitted very seriously ill. He had been in great pain since early morning and it was discovered that he had a perforated gastric ulcer. He was operated on immediately, and for several days made steady progress. But unfortunately pneumonia occurred and his life became in danger. He needed oxygen badly

and Doctor obtained some from the First Aid Post at the Fire Station. We prayed very earnestly for this man who had been so wonderfully saved from his first illness, but who now seemed in great danger again. In a wonderful way the Lord answered prayer, and in a matter of days he was well on the way to recovery. I myself felt that there was a definite purpose in this man's life being spared. He was a very grateful patient and I am sure realised that it was the Lord who had healed him. We were glad to be able to put him in touch with our missionaries in Tetuan when he went home. This man is typical of so many who desperately need not only physical healing, but even more that light should enter their darkened hearts. We would value your prayers for him and for all such.

—From Miss K. B. Carter.

3. THE WOMEN'S WARD & FOLLOW-UP WORK.

Let us take a peep into our women's ward in the Hospital as it is at the moment. Over there in one bed lies a very sick and weary-looking woman. She has not heard the Gospel before, so we pull her bed forward a bit to be nearer the other patients as we gather for our evening service. Watch her face and you will see some of the utter weariness disappear as she listens to the singing or the Message. Here is another woman who has had her foot amputated. I talk with her and find her quite friendly, but when I ask her which hymn she would like us to sing (she has been in Hospital some weeks and heard a good many) her answer is usually evasive while she says: "Ask one of the others, they can remember them better than I can"—this, with a smile which does not deceive me. She listens, but I must remember that she is a Moslem and what we speak of is not her religion. How very many there are in this land like her!

"The preparation of the heart of man belongeth unto the Lord," and as you look at my next patient you will realise that it is very definitely so, and for this woman I cannot help but give God the praise. Until she entered the Hospital she had no idea at all that God loved her enough to send a Saviour to die for her sin. From the very first night she hung on to every word that was either spoken or sung, and as I entered the ward each evening her first word was "Welcome." She has a hungry heart and listens intently and answers with her understanding, too. She loves the hymn "Jesus I will trust Thee" and we have to sing it each night. One evening I found her looking very tired and inclined to weep and I thought that she would hardly be able to join in the singing, but as she

lay still in bed and the rest of us sang her hymn I noticed that her lips were framing the words too. She is one of those who will be visited when she leaves the Hospital, so join your prayers with ours that she may really have a saving faith. There are several others in the ward who appear to be indifferent, but we never know what is going on in such hearts, and the Holy Spirit can penetrate the greatest indifference or hardness.

Of course, there are times when one senses a spirit of opposition to the Word, and we recognise that it is really against our Saviour, but even that is better than a spirit that says "Yes" to everything whilst their hearts say "No." Antagonism often means that the Message has gone home, and we do well to pray that in cases like these the ultimate victory will be for the Saviour they now despise.

Visiting in the homes of the people is often a real eye-opener. The places that some come from could not by any stretch of imagination be called "home," and yet there they live amidst dirt and disease, with smells that nauseate, drains that seem to have been blocked for years, no windows, no fresh air. Forgetting these things as far as our senses will let us, we look behind the scenes and meet people whose lives are burdened and fettered by a religion that offers them not one ray of hope in this world or the next; seeking refuge at some so-called saint's tomb; getting a teacher to scribble something on a bit of paper to alleviate the sufferings of a member of the family; giving a sick child some earth, from some supposedly holy place, to drink, and participating in many other superstitions that bind them continually. Yes, if ever a people needed Christ as their Liberator, the people of this land do.

Please pray for other activities connected with the work of the Hospital. Every Tuesday we have an opportunity for reaching the women-folk as they gather at the clinic to have their babies weighed. Sometimes I find the attention very good, but there are occasions when a person who does not want to listen will do her best by quiet muttered conversation to keep others from hearing. On Wednesdays we have a meeting chiefly intended as a Bible Class, but a few come now who have not yet made any profession, so will you please add these to your prayers.

—From Miss Norah E. Chambers.

4. "THURSDAY NIGHT AT 8."

I would like to ask prayer for the men who come to our house on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. Most of these are hospital contacts, and after a cup of tea and biscuits we discuss some

subject which might be a mental stumbling block to their accepting Christ as Saviour. There is always a warm (sometimes piping hot) discussion as we face up to the fundamental truths of the Old and New Testaments. Out of the twelve to fifteen who come, there are certainly four who are seriously seeking for the right way, and of these, one is very near to the Kingdom.

—From Dr. F. A. R. St. John.

Reaching the Children of Tripoli

To be able to tell Bible stories to children who have never heard them before is certainly worth coming to the Mission Field for! Here in Tripoli we have started from scratch as far as the children's classes are concerned, as none of the children are old enough to have attended the classes of previous years. We are, however, very conscious that we are building upon a firm foundation laid by the faithful labours of our predecessors. We, who live in this Mission House, will always be known as the sons and daughters of Mr. Reid. At first we found this rather amusing as, regardless of age or sex, we were addressed as "Mr. Reid." But as we mix more and more with the people who knew him and the other early missionaries, we realise how great a privilege is ours to be thus named. Our prayer indeed is that to us may grace be given to follow in their train. Parents of the girls who have been coming do not fear to allow them to come as we teach them the good and right way. The mothers tell us that they were in Lilla May's (Mrs. Webb) classes long ago, and was it not she who taught the Knowing One (our native helper M.) herself to do her first stitches?

Difficulties we certainly have, the main one being the fear that the classes will become too big and overwhelm us. However, we do praise God for really good behaviour in the small girls' class and for many who are learning the texts and who remember the stories from week to week. Teaching them to sing even one hymn was such a struggle that we nearly gave up in despair. These children have never been taught European music before and the sight of the teacher pedalling the little organ did indeed cause amusement. The Arabic equivalent of "There is a happy land" was our first attempt and was so often repeated that I fear it will be some time before we can bear to sing it again! Next, we walked to and from the market to the strains of "There is a City bright," sung to most original airs. As, however, that hymn gives the Gospel truths in a nutshell, we rejoiced, but decided to give it a rest. Now, "Tell me the

Old, Old Story" is being sung—one might almost dare to say sweetly, perhaps because of its lower key, and so we take courage! The

answer to the question as put by the High Priest, "Art thou the Son of God?" "Yes, of course He was." May Moslem children soon be



Girls' Class at Tripoli

Gospel class is followed by an hour's sewing lesson.

But it is the bigger girls' class, though small in numbers, which gives us perhaps the most encouragement. How they drink in the message, and the questions they ask! Here is an example:—"The 5,000 people miraculously fed with loaves and fishes must have been very thirsty. We always get thirsty when we eat fish. Where did they find water to drink?" We began to teach them a carol some weeks before Christmas. They had never before heard the story of the Nativity. Surely the teacher had the wrong Arabic word! A baby lying in a manger—in a cradle, maybe even in a turtle shell serving as such, but never in a manger!

Now we have launched out into a class for boys, on Wednesday afternoons. This is still in its early stages, but it has been encouraging so far. After the Gospel message a lesson is given in English, which language they are very keen to learn. Opposition is usually met with in work among Moslem boys, so we need our special prayers.

We also have the great joy of teaching a class of British children on Sundays; and it was wonderful recently to hear their spontaneous

saying that from their hearts! Flesh and blood cannot reveal it to them, but our Father which is in Heaven.

—From Mrs. Norman Pearce, Tripoli.

How your Guinea may become Two Pounds

Quite a number of readers have written to us upon the subject of "covenanted" gifts, and in order to anticipate further enquiries we are outlining the position in the following simple statement: If a friend of the Mission who customarily pays Income Tax at the FULL RATE (9s. 6d. in the £) is prepared to undertake a subscription for seven years, the value of the gift becomes practically doubled. For example, if the Covenant is for one guinea per annum, the N.A.M. is able to recover an additional 19s.

To friends who desire to take advantage of this Scheme we will gladly send, upon request, a Covenant form.

Annual Meetings: Preliminary Notice

The Annual Valedictory Meetings will be held (D.V.) at Livingstone Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, September 27th, at 3.30 and 6.30 p.m.