

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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NORTH AFRICA MISSION

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**SEVENTY YEARS OF MISSIONARY WITNESS
TO MOSLEMS AND OTHERS IN
MOROCCO. ALGERIA. TUNISIA & LIBYA**

For further information
Kindly ask for
FREE LITERATURE
at the
Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems
STALL OPPOSITE

1881 - 1951

In Morocco, Algeria,
Tunisia and Libya there are
over 17,000,000 Moslems.
They are being reached by
HOSPITAL WORK, DISPENSARIES,
CLASSES, COLPORTAGE,
BIBLE DEPOTS, VISITING,
VILLAGE EVANGELISM, etc.

ARE THEY NOT WORTH SAVING NOW?

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THE N.A.M. "WALL SPACE" AT THE MISSIONARY EXHIBITION

The great Missionary Exhibition held at the Central Hall, Westminster, during the first three weeks of September, afforded a unique opportunity for an estimated aggregate of 80,000 people to gain a vivid impression of the work that God is doing through some 180 Evangelical Societies to bring the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to all sorts and conditions of men in every part of the world. In addition to its Wall Space, the N.A.M. was responsible for the fitting-up of the adjacent Stall of the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems; and here, throughout the period of the Exhibition, N.A.M. stall-minders made valuable contacts and sold or distributed much literature. ALL of us may now participate in the vital follow-

Our Empty Coffers : 'Can God . . . ?'

The English verb "to worry" has no precise equivalent in the French language. Instead, the Frenchman uses the phrase "se faire du mauvais sang"—literally, to make to oneself bad blood. Doctors assure us that worry does, in fact, poison the blood-stream. The Great Physician, knowing that anxiety is the corrosive acid of the soul, forbids worry in the child of God: "Take no (anxious) thought!" "Don't worry!" Five or six times the command—or the word—crowds into the context of Matthew 6.

Don't worry about *what*? "What ye shall eat . . . what ye shall drink . . . what ye shall put on"—food and clothing, the main items of the domestic budget; major components of the world's commerce; all that is covered by "points" and "coupons" in time of national shortage; life's indispensables, concerning which the Son of God says, "Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye *have* need of *all* these things."

In the wilderness for forty years the garments of the Israelites remained perennially fresh. The incessant wandering fretted their spirits, but their sandals retained their pristine soundness and solidity. The manna might be loathed by the carnal and rebellious, but it never failed to satisfy the hunger.

Yet, within the circle of God's children was an *inner* circle of those whom God Himself made deliberately dependent upon the tithes of their fellows. Ten Israelites supported one Levite. Today, as three or four thousand years ago, our Heavenly Father provides for *all* His children—yet there is an inner circle necessarily *dependent upon the bounty of its brethren*. The missionary in a foreign land plies no remunerative trade. He is not a wage-earner. He is the Church's Levite.

During the past few months our missionaries have been receiving very reduced allowances. At the moment these words are being written the Mission's General Fund—the "Family Purse"—is completely empty, with no provision whatever for the October needs of workers solely dependent upon this channel of supply. As they are driven to their knees in prayer, let us seek, as the Lord enables us, to answer those prayers—not only by our gifts, but by seeking to enlarge in our immediate neighbourhood the circle of those who will accept, as from the Lord, the responsibility of helping to maintain the missionary witness in North Africa.

NOTE.—In view of the serious financial situation, it is earnestly desired that **Wednesday, November 7th, should be set aside as a Day of Prayer for North Africa. We shall be so grateful**

if our friends will make a careful note of the date, and join us in seeking the Lord's Face in special intercession. —E.J.L.

How the Light Breaks

During April a wretched-looking boy of about seventeen limped into the dispensary and showed me a terrible ulcer on his leg. I advised him to go to hospital and have proper injections, but he replied sullenly that he had been attending the Spanish hospital for a year and was getting no better. I explained that my medicine was no more potent than what he had already had, but that we would pray for healing in the name of Jesus and continue with daily dressings. He came every day for about three months and the ulcer healed wonderfully. Each day I read with him, but he did not seem very responsive. He told me a little about himself sometimes. He was a homeless orphan, living and sleeping in a weaving shed, earning just enough at his loom to feed himself.

About a fortnight before I left for England, Miss Bradbury, a missionary friend, came to stay with me for a week, and had a talk with A—. He confessed he wanted to understand, but just couldn't. "Then you must ask to be given understanding," she replied, and he instantly held out his hands after the Moslem fashion of prayer and said, "Oh, God, make me understand it!"

Next night he arrived with a happy face for his daily reading. I used the phrase "loving the Lord Jesus," and he turned on me quickly. "I do love Him," he said. "Do you really?" I questioned, and he replied, very earnestly, "Yes, I do, and not a little either; I love Him very very much." Please pray for that poor, illiterate boy.

In the afternoons I visit. These visits are usually by request, to see those who are too ill to come to the dispensary, and often when I have done what I can medically, neighbours will drift in, and after thoroughly examining the contents of my basket, they will ask what is written in the book I carry. In three homes it was possible to establish regular small weekly gatherings of women, which continued for a while. Such work could have been maintained, and new openings sought, if I had had time, or if there had been another to help, so please pray that God will send other workers to this district.

I recently spent four days in a mountain village about thirty miles from Chauen, where, as far as I know, the Gospel has never been preached. Several men asked for Scriptures and there were more invitations than I could accept in the time. I long to go back there, and to



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Mr. Don Rickards (from U.S.A.) speaking at the Valedictory Meeting. (His wife is hidden from view behind him, unhappily!). On the extreme left are Miss St. John, Mrs. Kent and Miss Andersen.

villages like it, but this is impossible unless others come to help carry on the routine work in the town. If there were two to remain at the centre and two to go out and evangelise, a tremendous lot of ground could be covered.

I do commend to your prayers those who have professed faith in Christ. Time, and possibly persecution, will test the reality of their profession. No worker among Moslems can count his souls lightly, and we must be prepared for bitter disappointments. Yet we can pray for them in faith and hope and love. None of them, as yet, can read, and none mentioned in this letter has made an open break with Moslem practices.

—From Miss Patricia St. John

N.A.M. Recruits at Farewell Meetings

In spite of heavy rains, the annual valedictory meetings held at the Livingstone Hall on Sept. 27th were well attended. At the afternoon gathering (presided over by the *Rev. H. W. Stalley* in the unavoidable absence of *Mr. W. Cecil Collinson*) the *Rev. L. J. Bocking*, *Miss E. F. Collins* and *Miss C. A. Bowring* gave messages which made it abundantly clear that the Lord is blessing the witness in Tangier, Cherchell and Casablanca, and that souls are being saved among Moslems as well as among Europeans.

In the evening, with the *Rev. H. W. Fife* as Chairman, a very full programme was handled with genial efficiency. *Mrs. J. W. Kent* spoke with arresting interest of the work of the Tangier Hospital, where she herself has given three years of valuable service. *Miss P. M. St. John*, present for the first time at an N.A.M. London gathering, gave a moving account of missionary life at Chauen, "the Gateway to the Riff Country" of Spanish Morocco, where, after many initial difficulties, class and dispensary work is being established.

It was particularly refreshing to listen to the testimonies of the three new missionary recruits. *Mr. & Mrs. Don Rickards* had just concluded their preliminary language studies in Paris, and were soon to leave for Kairouan, where they will be fellow-labourers with *Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown*. *Miss Bente Andersen* hails from the neighbourhood of Copenhagen. In addition to her nursing and midwifery qualifications, *Miss Andersen* has real aptitude for "picking up" languages. We trust that, when she arrives at the Tangier Hospital, where her fellowship and professional help will be greatly appreciated, she will soon add colloquial Arabic to her "bag," and thus have the facility that her fervent spirit desires for making known the Lord Jesus and His Salvation to the patients under her care.

In the regrettable absence, through indisposition, of the *Rev. Godfrey Robinson*, the closing message was brought by the *Rev. H. W. Stalley*, who gave an exceedingly helpful survey of the present situation in North Africa under the Scripture similes of "building" and "battling" (cp. 1 Cor. 3, 10 and Neh. 4, 18).

At the close of a memorable evening the outgoing missionaries were commended to God in prayer by *Mr. Ernest Long*.

News from Paris

Another milestone! Fern passed her exam. with a very good grade. God's goodness, your prayers, and our combined faith were the winning combination. Through the month of May thirteen friends *volunteered* the information that they prayed for us *daily*. You don't know how much this makes a missionary's heart rejoice. Thanks to all of you who pray for us, and for every individual prayer.

We rejoice in hearing of so many of our friends getting into the Lord's service. Especially do we praise God for those who have gone to foreign mission fields, where the needs are so great. We remember in prayer those who



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Missionary Exhibition Stall shared by the N.A.M. and kindred Societies working among Moslems.

yet lack full financial support, equipment, or funds for passage. Our North Africa Mission co-workers, Don and Margaret Rickards, went in September to England for a rest, a series of conferences, and a buying tour (equipment for North Africa).

It was a pleasure to live a while in a *whole* house, recently. We stayed at the home of our directors, Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Procter, during their vacation in England. What a joy to s-p-r-e-a-d o-u-t and to be able to invite our friends in! Mr. Robert I. Brown dropped in from Tunisia to wait for his U.S.-bound ship. It was through him that Fern and I were simultaneously "called" on March 7, 1950, at Columbia Bible College, Columbia, to work for the Lord in North Africa. Mr. Brown returns to Tunisia early in November.

Yesterday Ginny Sue was not at all impressed with being some 975 feet high up on the top of Eiffel Tower. *We* were. She has six teeth. We

were looking so hard for number 5 *on the bottom* that it was half way out when we first saw it—*on top!* Out in the parks of Paris, Ginny Sue provides an opening for us to speak with the French. They are friendly people themselves, and receive much encouragement from our little one to start a conversation.

Although our study of French will never be finished, we begin to study Arabic and Islamics in a week or two. Please add these new subjects that we are learning to your requests as you pray for us. Islamics and Arab lessons, in *French*, will keep us up on our French. We count it a privilege to bear up before the Throne of Grace your special prayer requests. At times, when we pray for you, we long to know the *details* of your needs.

—From Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilson

News in brief

We rejoice with *Dr. and Mrs. F. A. R. St. John* in God's gift to them of a son (*Paul*)—born at Tangier on July 7th. Our loving congratulations.

Whilst the *Rev. Robert Brown* is fulfilling an important deputation programme in the U.S.A. and Canada (covering the months September-November) our thoughts have been much with his wife and children in far-off Tunisia. They were joined in the latter part of October by *Miss Jennie Wilberforce*.

Having concluded her language studies in Paris, *Miss Mary Huntington* has gone to Settat to join the Misses Buxton and Reed in their Gospel Dispensary work.

An urgent problem has been created at Casablanca through the retirement of *Miss Emily Grant* (of U.S.A.), of whose marriage to Mr. Robert Barber of the U.S. Navy we have been recently notified. Our sister will be greatly missed by the Moorish women and girls, to whom she had endeared herself. Our prayerful good wishes accompany her.

As *Libya* returns to self-government in 1952 we shall be much in prayer that the N.A.M. bridgehead in that needy country may be strengthened and the Lord's work consolidated.