

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The N.A.M. News Letter



OFFICE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION : 34, BISHAM GARDENS, HIGHGATE, LONDON, N.6

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL : REV. H. W. FIFE.

GENERAL SECRETARY : ERNEST J. LONG.

AMERICAN COUNCIL : *Chairman*, REV. GEORGE SCHMEISER.

Treasurer, MR. CHARLES J. GRANT.

Secretary, MR. E. A. STEELE, JNR., 523, Owen Road, Wynnewood, PA.

CANADIAN COUNCIL : *Chairman*, REV. STANLEY STOCK, M.A., Montreal.

Secretary-Treasurer, MR. G. V. GORDON, 190, Sanford Avenue, St. Lambert, Quebec

No. 81

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

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1952

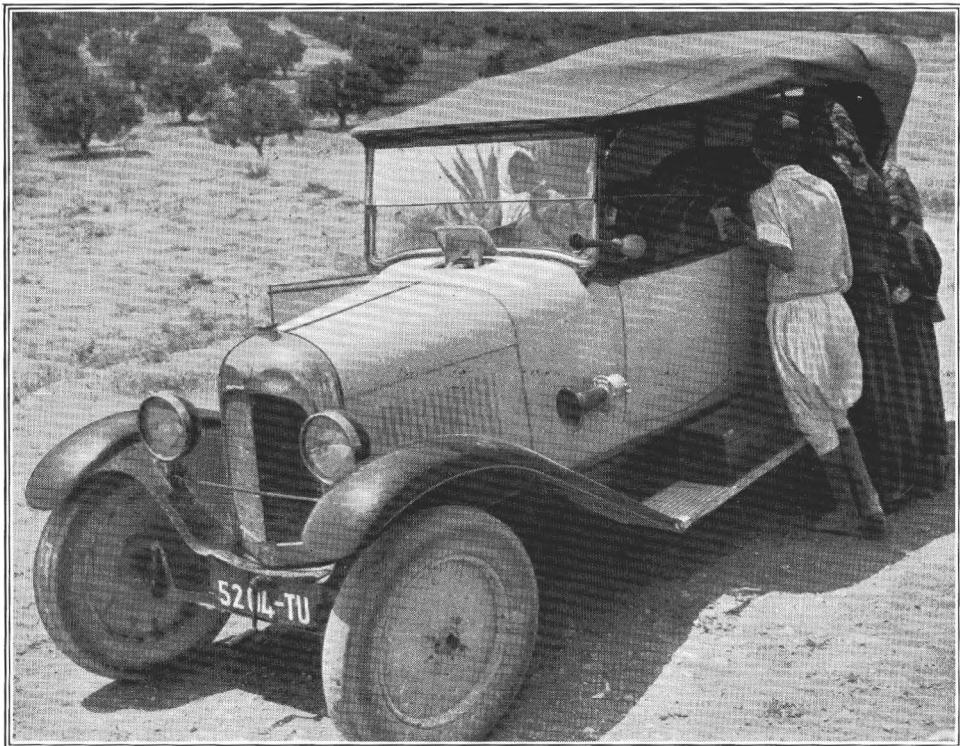


Photo by]

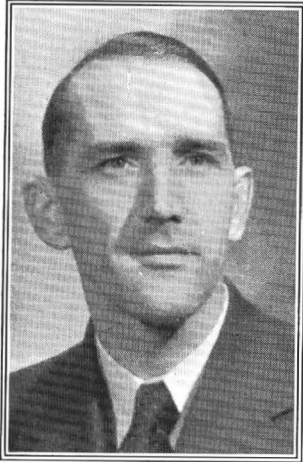
MISSING (FROM TUNIS) — A CAR!

[E.J.L.

This is a car of ancient vintage for which three successive missionary brethren in Tunisia had a true affection. It was noisy—passengers yelled at each other to make themselves heard; it was ill-ventilated—heat from the engine blistered the ankles in hot weather; it was temperamental—getting you there with gusto, but addicted to sulking-fits on the way home; it was a bone-shaker—a journey on the pot-holed roads of inland Tunisia being an ordeal comparable to that of sitting-out an earthquake in an iron-monger's shop. But what glorious adventures in colportage and evangelising it assured for Messrs. Stanley Miles, Ernest Long and Cyril Morriss! Mr. Miles's last car was taken by the Nazis during their occupation of Tunisia. It has never been replaced. A reliable Tunis car would make an immense contribution towards the aggressive evangelisation of Northern Tunisia.

Our New Field Director

The Homecall, just a year ago, of the Rev. T. J. P. Warren not only deprived us of a tried friend and trusty counsellor, but also involved the N.A.M. in an administrative loss of the first magnitude. Mr. Warren's missionary years in



Rev. H. W. Stalley,
the N.A.M.'s new
Field Director.

Algeria were followed by a period of similar duration in Paris, during which time he got to know intimately the younger generation of missionary candidates that stayed at the Hostel whilst pursuing their language studies.

The war years saw Mr. Warren stationed at Tangier, and the Council members were swift to appreciate the value of a Field Superintendent who could assure an intimate and

effective liaison between the missionaries and themselves.

From November, 1947, until his Homecall, Mr. Warren undertook the duties of Secretary for Field Affairs; with the result that missionary correspondence, and the problems expressed therein, were wisely handled by our gifted brother, to the mutual help of missionary and Council, and to the relief of Headquarters.

It will be readily understood, therefore, that the British, American and Canadian Councils of the N.A.M. have been much in prayer that the Lord would raise up a man of gift and godliness, acceptable alike to themselves and the missionaries, under whose leadership the Field administration might prosper anew.

We feel that this prayer has been graciously answered through the coming to our ranks of the Rev. Harold W. Stalley. At the first International Council Meeting of the N.A.M., held in London on October 12th, Mr. Stalley was unanimously elected to the office of Field Director. He had already visited the U.S.A. and Canada in company with the Rev. H. W. Fife, and the N.A.M. Councils in those countries were warm in their commendation of Mr. Stalley for such a post.

When writing to the Missionaries in October acquainting them with the appointment, the

Chairman of the Council, Mr. Fife, furnished the following helpful outline:—

“Mr. Harold Stalley, born in India of missionary parents, reared in a godly home where the missionary challenge was always foremost, and missions to Moslems eagerly and devotedly supported, has from his very earliest days borne the marks of one set apart by God for His special service. As Pastor of the Church to which he came as a boy, and in which he grew to manhood and in spiritual experience, I can speak of the affection and esteem in which he is held by those who know him best.

“After training at the B.T.I., Glasgow, Mr. Stalley went out to North Africa as a missionary of the Algiers Mission Band seventeen years ago, and there not only acquired French and Arabic, but ‘endured hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.’ Like the prophet of old, he has sat where you sit, and has thus learned the lessons that can come in no other way. He is first and foremost a missionary. During these past few years, when he has had to spend some time in England, he has gained much experience in missionary and church administration, and we can see in this the Lord preparing him for this new ministry. Of his personality I have no need to write, for he is already known to you.

“In Mrs. Stalley we have one who, with a little longer missionary service (she went to North Africa just before her husband), has not only similar linguistic gifts, but has endeared herself to all with whom she has served. We thank God for these two gifted friends that He has prepared for us through the years, and brought to us for this most needed ministry. The Councils commend them to your prayers and to your unstinted loyalty and affection. Their acceptance of this office will mean very great sacrifice, and the responsibilities resting upon them will be very heavy. They would be the first to admit that, without Christ, they can do nothing, but that with His and your fellowship ‘all things are possible to him that believeth.’ ‘Believest thou this?’”

At the time these notes are being written (early December) Mr. Stalley is engaged on a tour of Mission Stations in Tripoli, Tunisia and Algeria. Whilst there are important considerations that make it necessary for Mrs. Stalley and her daughter Elizabeth to defer for the present their departure for North Africa, it is expected that next autumn will find the little family suitably installed in Morocco. We commend them earnestly to your prayers.

Rev. R. I. Brown's Visit to U.S.A. and Canada

It is fitting that we should pay tribute to the splendid work that has been accomplished on the far side of the Atlantic through the second visit (just concluded) to the U.S.A. and Canada of our brother Mr. Brown of Kairouan.

Little imagination is required to visualise the domestic disturbance and the considerable strain engendered when a missionary is called upon to leave his home and important work in a Moslem city in order to undertake, a few days later, the carrying-through of a heavy deputation programme in the bewilderingly different environment of great American cities.

Under the blessing of God Mr. Brown has been most successful. Well over a hundred meetings of widely differing types were addressed, in addition to some half-dozen radio broadcasts. Time was found to write a number of full-length articles for important U.S.A. magazines of repute. Prayer meetings for regular intercession have either been created, or are in the making; whilst about a dozen missionary recruits have their faces set towards Moslem North Africa.

Not of least importance is the fact that gifts from the Lord's people "over yonder" have repaid all travel expenses, assured Mr. Brown's support for three months, and left a surplus of nearly two hundred pounds. We thank God with grateful hearts; and we thank our brother, too. It is no small satisfaction to know that he resumes his labours at Kairouan in fellowship with a young American colleague—Mr. Don Rickards—well suited to share with him in the sowing and (we believe) the reaping that lie ahead.

The Closing of our Paris Hostel

In our March-April *News Letter* we told of the exercise of heart that had in 1924 led the Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor and the late Rev. T. J. P. Warren to pay an exploratory visit to Paris. For in that great city, and within a day's journey of the N.A.M.'s London Headquarters, lived some forty or fifty thousand North Africans, and their unmet spiritual need had long exercised the hearts of these two brethren.

"The vision of need" (we wrote) "speedily resulted in a venture of faith, for Mr. and Mrs. Warren removed to Paris in 1925, and after three years of pioneering labours established the 'foyer' in the Rue des Orchidées. As well as affording accommodation for newly-accepted candidates studying French as a preliminary to service in the Mission Field, these premises

proved of unique value as a centre for evangelisation. It was here, too, that the Paris Missionary Fellowship came into being and thrived mainly under Mr. Warren's kindly and able leadership."

Of recent years the hostel, and our missionary candidates in Paris, have been under the care of the Rev. and Mrs. C. W. Procter, who undertook this ministry at considerable personal sacrifice. But now, because of the prohibitively high cost of living in Paris and several other important factors, the Council of the N.A.M. has regretfully decided that the hostel must be closed, and the premises sold.

It is, however, of the goodness of the Lord that two considerations of some comfort soften in measure the sense of loss. Our good brother Mr. Sydney Arthur has, within the past twelve-month or so, paid several visits to France, in the course of which he has been blessed of God in enlisting the active co-operation of French evangelical churches in seeking the spiritual welfare of the North Africans in their midst. Do pray earnestly that the fires thus kindled may be fanned by the breath of the Holy Spirit, and that a permanent and prosperous work may be established.

The other reassuring consideration is this. Two or three years ago a Missionary Centre was opened at 156, rue de Longchamp, Paris, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Chazeaud, a French-Canadian couple who had previously served the Lord as missionaries in Africa. These friends render great help to missionary candidates staying in Paris whilst studying French at the "Alliance Francaise." Their house is the rallying point of a missionary-student community whose needs—social, cultural, and spiritual—are the constant care of their host and hostess.

We would take this opportunity of expressing to Mr. and Mrs. Procter our hearty thanks for the earnest ministry of these past years, and would assure them of our remembrance in prayer as they seek the Lord's guidance concerning the future.

Will friends kindly note that Mr. and Mrs. Procter are now in London. Letters addressed to them c/o 34, Bisham Gardens, Highgate, London, N.6., will be forwarded.

Another Warrior Passes

Miss H. M. M. Tapp, whose Homccall came on Sunday, October 21st, was one of the early missionaries of the N.A.M. She went out to the Field in 1903, joining Miss Grissell and Miss Hammon at the Halfouine, Tunis, where important work among Moslems was done in

those days. The alliance with Miss Hammon continued until the latter's retirement, many years later.

Miss Tapp was most devoted to the Arab women and girls, and at the classes to which she welcomed them the Word of God and Gospel hymns were thoroughly learnt. She made many friends among the women, whom she visited most conscientiously; and they loved to receive her into their homes.

A special feature of Miss Tapp's work was her weekly meeting for porter-boys and shoe-blacks. They were a tough crowd, but the Seed was faithfully sown, and some must have taken root.

When a car was given for the women workers, Miss Tapp did the driving; and what happy days were spent in visiting villages and distributing Scriptures! Miss Tapp loved to seek out a group of men or boys, and read to them the incomparable story of the Prodigal Son.

Many a missionary has spoken of the great help received from our sister when he or she first went out as a raw recruit. Miss Tapp encouraged quite a number to give their first message in Arabic at one of her classes.

So yet another of our valiant warriors, who fought unwearingly against the power of Islam, has entered into rest.

—From Miss G. E. Petter.

All Souls Day

The evangelical believer rejoices in the assurance of the Resurrection and eternal life for those who fall asleep in Christ, but among Romanists there is the dread of the fires of purgatory before the event summed up in Paul's words to the Thessalonians: "So shall we ever be with the Lord." Owing to this, November 1 (All Saints Day) and November 2 (All Souls Day) are memorable in all Romish Churches for special Masses for the Dead, while the cemeteries are crowded by the relatives of departed loved ones, who bring flowers to place on their graves, and say a prayer on their behalf. This gives a special opportunity to the Christian worker to offer the Gospel message at a time when hearts are softened and thoughts turned to the future life. Members of the North Africa Mission were especially encouraged in their efforts last November, particularly in Tunis and Tripoli. In both centres much Gospel literature was distributed—"precious Seed" from which a harvest may be sought through prayer.

The Cost of the News Letter

In these days of diminishing income and rapidly-mounting costs the Council of the N.A.M., as stewards of the Lord's work, are understandably concerned that the Publications Department should be run with the minimum of loss.

Until we are able to resume the publishing of a full-scale Magazine, the *News Letter* and *Prayer Circle Notes* are our principal channel of information, and we endeavour to concentrate within their few pages the maximum of news from the field.

The cost of printing and posting the *News Letter* and *Prayer Circle Notes* is roughly £260 a year—a sum that would be fully repaid if rather more than 2,000 of our readers sent, in addition to their other love-gifts, a Literature subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum. May we count upon your co-operation? Thank you so much!

A Grand New Book

The publishing of a first-rate book dealing with missionary witness among Moslems is an important event; and "PRICKLY PEAR" is emphatically a work of unusual excellence. Its writer, Captain Eric G. Fisk, missionary in Southern Morocco, says: "The prickly pear is a lovely, delicious fruit *when you get to it*, but there are prickles outside that you must be careful to watch and avoid. . . . Work amongst Mohammedans is truly a work that pricks you, scratches you, and nearly bleeds you to death; but the fruit is very sweet. . . . May GOD teach us how to do His own Work."

This is a record of soul-seeking that has clearly been undertaken in God's own way—but it is a way of pain costly in its demands and testing in its disappointments. Nevertheless, there is fruit as the reward of toil and tears—and this volume proves convincingly how profitably worth while, after all, is the sore travail of the Moslem harvest field.

"*Prickly Pear*" may be obtained from N.A.M. Headquarters for 7s. 6d., post free.

THANKSGIVING.

As we go to press we desire to thank with grateful hearts those of our dear friends whose timely love-gifts have made it possible for us to send out a full December allowance to our sorely-tried missionaries. "Can God . . . ?" Once again He has proved that He is "able to do . . . above all that we ask or think."