

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

# The N.A.M. News Letter



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

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*Photo by]*

*[E.J.L.*

## Our new Fez Missionaries

This snapshot of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilson (of Philadelphia, U.S.A.) and little Ginny Sue was taken within a few minutes of their departure from N.A.M. Headquarters, Highgate, where they had for ten days been the guests of the Secretary and his wife. They are now in Fez, sharing the house occupied in recent years by the Misses E. Higbid and E. Harman. After 31 years of devoted service—principally among Europeans, and including an initial 16 years at Tetuan—the Misses Higbid and Harman are retiring from the Field in late November, and taking up residence at Stanmore, Middlesex, where a pleasant flat has been made available for them. Both for these friends and the new arrivals at Fez we would seek our readers' remembrance in prayer.

## Farewell to New Workers

In the last issue of the "News Letter" a brief paragraph introduced to our readers two new recruits—Miss Kathleen Dykes and Mr. Bernard Leat. At the Valedictory Meetings held at the Caxton Hall on September 23rd we had the joy of intimating to the assembled company of friends the cheering news that funds had come in sufficient to cover the passages and a whole year's support for these two candidates. Both they and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilson of Philadelphia, U.S.A., testified to the Lord's dealings with them, and outlined the circumstances that climaxed in their call to the North Africa field. As these words are being penned, Miss Dykes is on her way to Tangier, whilst Mr. Bernard Leat and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have already arrived in Azazga (Algeria) and Fez (French Morocco) respectively.

At these same Farewell Meetings Dr. Arthur Hargreaves—a retired medical missionary with a long record of work among Moslems in the Near East—gave a heartening message which crystallised his conviction that Moslems *can* be won for Christ. Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Hargreaves has now reached Tripoli, having driven his car through France, Tunisia, and part of Tripolitania—a feat that might well have taxed the endurance of a much younger man!

Miss Olwen Pierce and Miss Grace Tridgell, missionary nurses from the Tangier Hospital, have joined Dr. Hargreaves at Tripoli, and we look forward with confidence to the effectual consolidation, under God's blessing, of the medical work at Tripoli. In this undertaking the newcomers will depend much upon the help and experience of Mr and Mrs. Norman Pearce.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for thus making provision for the urgent needs of Tripoli. Azazga and Fez, and feel sure that our readers will be happy to remember these centres in a special way as the Prayer Circle Notes bring each to remembrance month by month.

## New Wards at the Tangier Hospital

A few months ago all manner of building materials made their appearance on the Compound, for the much talked-of new Wards are now going to become something more than ideas and words. To-day, as I write, I see them well on the way to completion, and a couple of baths have found their way into the garden awaiting the next move up higher! There has been noise in abundance as tools of all kinds have been put into use, to say nothing of the din that was caused by the tongues of the workmen as they shouted orders to each other, or hauled up sand, cement, and bricks by means of a very squeaky pulley! As for our front rooms, I have written my name many times in the dust. There has been one bright spot in it all, however, for the kiddies have enjoyed the

heaps of sand to their hearts' content, and I suppose they will be sorry when the last grain disappears. I see that even the Doctor's wee son likes to sift the sand through his fourteen-month-old fingers. That is the mental picture for you, but perhaps one day you will see it in colour just as it is at this moment.

The other side of the picture is—new wards, more patients, and further opportunities for making known the Saviour to a very needy people; so pray with us here about it all, that great glory may be brought to Him who alone is worthy.

For some weeks the regular work of the Hospital was in abeyance during the absence of Dr. St. John, as well as for the usual cleaning purposes; but once more each bed has its occupant, and it has been very encouraging to see the reception given to the preaching of God's Word. Added to this, some of the women have shown a real desire to go to the Sunday afternoon service, so those who were thought fit enough went. It is a cause for thanksgiving to find amongst the people the desire to go, and having been once, to want to return.

We have lost a few of our Sunday School scholars recently, taken away for various reasons, but mostly, I think, because of what we teach and they learn. Those of you who remember the story of the little girl who was so badly burned a few years ago will be glad to know that I have had several contacts with her again recently, and have even been to her home. For this we praise God. Left to herself, she would, I am sure, often come to us.

Now after a break of four weeks we have restarted the women's meeting each Wednesday, and I shall appreciate your continued prayers for us, especially between 4 and 5 o'clock.

—From Miss Norah E. Chambers

## Challenge and Cheer at Alcazar

Spiritually, the school has not been very encouraging this year. The children have done some good work with their hands, and they have made some progress in general education. They know more Scripture by heart than most English children, and I should think they know the Way of Salvation backwards—in their heads, but we can't say that any of them have shown any signs of making what they know their own. Perhaps the seed is germinating out of sight. During Ramadan they seemed as responsive as a stone wall. It was with rather heavy hearts that we closed school for the summer, but not despairingly, for the Lord is faithful and will do His part.

If the school wasn't exactly encouraging, however, the Lord had a great surprise for us in another direction. A man stopped us one day and asked us to take his five-year-old daughter. We were very full then and suggested that he waited till she was a little older; and, anyway, we taught the Gospel—would he want her to learn *that*? He

said that was just why he wanted her to come, that she might learn it whilst she was young; and that he wanted the Gospel himself, and so did his wife. At first we were rather sceptical, as one is inclined to become in this land, and we wondered what he really did want. However, he met us repeatedly, asking if there were no men workers who could teach him; so we decided we'd have to do the best we could.

We visited him and his wife. I don't know when we have had such an appreciative audience as those two. It was a treat to be asked intelligent questions. He had never seen the Bible or met a Christian. All he knew of Christ was what he had read in the Koran. He had been for one year at the Koranic University at Fez, and for fifteen years he had been dissatisfied with both the Koran and Islam—with the Koran because he felt some of the teaching was morally wrong, and that where the teaching was good, Islam could give no power to carry it out. We were able to get him a classical Arabic Bible; he bought it eagerly, and he and it have since been inseparable. About three weeks after he had received this treasure, Ramadan began, and he broke the Fast. This was a big step to take so soon. We shall value your prayers for him and his wife. He is in some danger of losing his livelihood, but we know the Lord will not let him be destitute.

—From the Misses M. E. Chipperfield  
and G. W. Theakston.

## Life from the Dead

A few weeks ago a neighbour came in for medicine. She told us that her wee baby brother, twenty-four days old, was very ill. When we suggested that she should bring him in the morning she said her father was going to dig his grave as he was nearly dead. We told her to bring him straight away. The poor little thing was blue and truly nearly dead. To our amazement the father consented to leave him with us until the morning. The baby was having a fit almost every hour. What should we do? The first verse in Daily Light that night was: "He giveth to all life and breath and all things." This was a real challenge, and we claimed life and breath for this little child. We watched all night, feeding it between the fits.

Next morning a friend came and saw the baby. She advised us to take it back as it would not be good for the child to die in our house. We told her how we had prayed and believed the Lord would save him. When, on the following Sunday, we were able to tell her that the baby was doing well, she told all the folk who had gathered. It has been a wonderful testimony in the family and in the neighbourhood. The Lord has surely promised signs following, and we do praise Him for this very definite one.

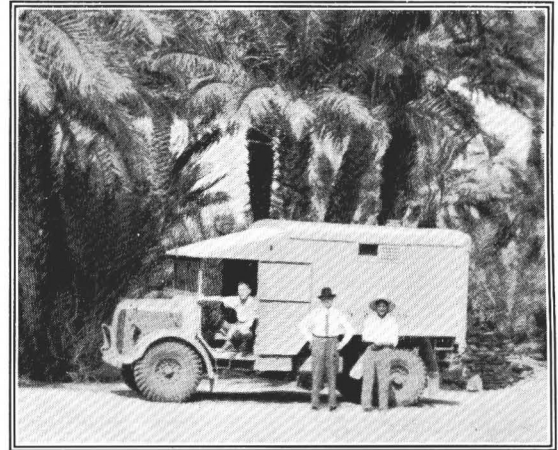
—From Misses Grace F. Lincoln  
and Lily Souter.

## With the Bible in Desert Villages

The colportage trip that I recently made with Bible Society companions down South into the desert was well worth while, as Mr. Robinson, Si M'Barek and I sold 123 Bibles, 46 Testaments, and 1,872 Portions, making a total of 2,041 volumes altogether.

I joined the Bible Society colporteurs in Mascara, and spent the week-end with Pastor Chazel and his wife. On the Monday morning Si M'Barek and I visited the Arab town, and sold quite a number of Scriptures. In the afternoon we visited a European village and I had the joy of selling my first Bible on this trip.

The following day we went to another village where the weekly market was being held. Finding the Arabs in the street very hard, I started visiting the various shops, and in one of them I sold a Bible to an Arab sheik who told me that he had read portions of the Bible when he was young. In another Arab shop a young man bought Job, Proverbs, St. John in French and Arabic, and one or two other Gospels. In a further shop I had a long conversation with an Arab about the way of salvation. He bought a St. John's Gospel.



The Bible Society's Van under the palm trees  
at Colomb Béchar

On our way from Mascara to Saida we halted at the villages through which we passed, and also called at the various farms near the road. In all the villages, except one, we sold at least one Bible, and at some of the farms also God's Word was purchased.

In Colomb Béchar, which has a population of over 52,000 persons, we sold our entire stock of Hebrew Scriptures. Quite a good number of French Bibles were purchased, and the sale of Arabic Scriptures was similarly encouraging. After a week spent in this neighbourhood we started on the return journey. Farther North we got stuck in the mud and it took some time to get

the van released—hardly surprising in view of the fact that it weighs over three tons! You can imagine how glad we were to leave the track and get on to one of the good roads. The following morning, shortly after 6.30, we arrived in Cherchell, exactly four weeks having been spent over this colportage trip.

It was a great joy to me to participate in this tour, as I sold 43 French Bibles, a number of New Testaments, and hundreds of portions of God's Word in French, Hebrew and Arabic, and had many opportunities of speaking to French, Jews and Arabs regarding those things which really matter.

Pray that God's richest blessing may rest upon all that was done and that the Seed sown may spring up and produce lasting fruit to God's glory.

—From Mr. F. Ewing.

## Testing Days in Tripoli

We had to close the Dispensary (on August 1st) as soon as Dr. Dawson's kind oversight came to an end. We did so with heavy hearts, as we were getting the largest number of patients we have ever had—100 to 130 per morning. We were on the go from 7.30 a.m. to 1 or 1.30 p.m. without a break, in the heat and humidity of a Tripoli summer, which, by the way, has been the worst recorded for thirty years. At the time of closing, we did not know when we should be able to reopen, so we praise God for the timely offer of Dr. and Mrs. Hargreaves to come and help temporarily in the work here. Meanwhile, our Arab friends are becoming more and more impatient, and knocks on the door and demands for medicine are increasing daily.

We have been here almost three years now and there are no signs of any converts, nor even of any serious enquirers. Any who wonder why, should read Zwemer's "Law of Apostacy in Islam" to realise what it costs for a man or woman living under Moslem rule to forsake his or her religion. But here is an extract which encouraged us: "It was not by chance that Jesus chose His first followers among fishermen. The fisherman . . . is the man who knows how to wait. He is the man of patience who is not pressed for time: who casts his net and leaves the rest to the Almighty. This is the great lesson all missionaries among Moslems have to learn. The patience of unrewarded toil; the patience of unanswered prayer, the patience of waiting for results always invisible except to the eye of faith." We rejoice in the news of souls being saved in other Moslem lands. By His Spirit He is able.

In my spare moments between spring-cleaning the house and Dispensary I am engaged in preparing a simple grammar of Tripoli Arabic for the use of future workers. Please pray for wisdom in this task. Most of the educated Arabs will have nothing to do with such a venture as they despise

the colloquial language very much (though they speak it among themselves!) and say it is a waste of time for us to learn it. S—, however, is willing to help. Please pray also for M—, who reads with me in journalese Arabic and English. Though only fifteen years of age, he is a staunch Moslem and very frightened of anything savouring of Christianity.

We feel that we are on the verge of a new era in the work here in Tripoli, and that the past months of frustration and lack of workers will, God willing, soon be at an end. As we look back we praise God for health and strength given to "hold the fort" and for the unexpected voluntary workers who always seemed to turn up at the right time to give needed assistance. We also praise Him for the financial help given, without which the medical work could not be carried on. The amount paid by each patient does not cover the cost of drugs and dressings, added to which are the wages of our three native helpers and other expenses. For all this we look to the Lord alone, and have had some wonderful answers to prayer in the supply of these needs.

—From Mr. and Mrs. Norman Pearce.

## A Christmas Gift Suggestion

Outstandingly the best book dealing with missionary work in North Africa that we have read for many years is "THE PRICKLY PEAR," by Captain Eric G. Fisk. We warmly commend it to friends in quest of a Christmas book gift that is sure both to guarantee the gratitude of the receiver and—as a by-product—further blessing upon the Lord's work in the Moslem field as prayer-fellowship is enlisted. The volume may be obtained from N.A.M. Headquarters for 7s. 6d., post free.

## Birth

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smurthwaite on the birth of a son (Christopher William) on September 12th, 1952, at Tetuan.

## On Sick Furlough

Prayer is earnestly desired for Miss E. E. J. Bradbury, of Tetuan, who is at home on sick leave, and has already undergone two operations on her eyes at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

**As we go to Press, we learn with thankfulness of the safe arrival in Morocco, after a long car journey through France and Spain, of our Field Director, the Rev. Harold Stalley, and his wife and daughter, Elizabeth. As they set up home in Tangier, facing a future fraught with many initial problems and difficulties, we know that they can count upon our readers' kind remembrance in prayer.**

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