
forward

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION

“If we Faint Not”

HAROLD W. STALLEY
(Secretary General)

“HE THAT observeth the wind shall not sow. He that regardeth the clouds shall not reap”, said the Preacher, son of David king in Jerusalem. According to the Scripture there was none wiser than he save the “Son of Man”.

Who will deny that storm and cloud represent the world scene today more truly than ever?

We write these words from France during the critical days of the country's twentieth century revolution. “Unrest” is a mild word to use of the state of mind and of things in Britain and North America. North African countries struggle with under-development, under-employment, and disillusionment in their post-revolutionary period. Unrest amongst university students has been a feature in the Algerian situation as well as Europe and America. Armed revolt and bloodshed have not yet been forgotten either.

What has the church of Christ to do in the face of these “winds and clouds”? What of her mission, her missions to the uttermost parts of the earth? Some may feel that this is not the time to think and act aggressively. They would rather take no risks, and even call the workers in to the comparative security of the homestead. The “day” is far spent, is it not, the “night” cometh when no man can work?

This is not the feeling and reasoning of the North Africa Mission. “Occupy until I come!” said the Master (Luke 19: 13). It is written of Nehemiah and his workmen that they “wrought in the work . . .

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JULY 1968

from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared"—beyond sun-down!

The International Executive Committee met on April 23, 24, 25 last in Princeton, New Jersey, and the most important subject it had to deal with was the future and scope of the Mission. It passed a resolution, the major part of which I pass on to you herewith:

"We believe that God is calling us not to curtail but to enlarge our vision of the area and scope in which we work for the establishment of the church of Jesus Christ. We consider our primary responsibility to be to muslims in North Africa, after that North Africans in Europe and then other muslim peoples. We will use every possible means, consistent with the spiritual character of our calling and obedience to Jesus Christ, to attain this end."

We share this conviction with you that you will pray more earnestly that we reach the objective. You will realise, however, that to reach the objective the Master requires more men, women, and money! Men and women are needed who are ready to "let the shorelines go", in other words to leave the security and comfort of an affluent community, in Britain, North America, Europe and Australia, to let Him have all that they have of life and talents for no greater reward save that of knowing that they do His will.

His call, however, is not only for such, but for every one of His own, without exception, to

think less of their own temporal security on earth and to give of their means so that the young men and women, and older ones too, whom He chooses, are sent out and sustained in the great operation of the last day and perhaps the last hour before the Lord returns.

It is essential that the "principle of faith" on which our Mission works be thoroughly understood from the Master's standpoint. His command "Go ye, disciple all nations", was, and is, to the church, not to certain individuals. If you, as an individual member of His church, don't go one way, you must go another, by proxy perhaps, but with your prayers, tithes and offerings. Are we wrong in pointing out that the "pounds" as well as the lives of His redeemed ones all belong to Him, they are a trust from Him? "Trade with these till I come", says the R.S.V. of Luke 19: 13. He will be back soon for the accounting. What then? How will it go with you? The lateness of the hour calls for everything we have, to be thrown in to the cause of the Kingdom. Let no adverse winds or threatening clouds dismay or hold us back. "In due season we shall reap if we faint not."

QUOTE

"1d. (stamp) was the gift of a 6 year old girl who only had 3d. for an ice-lolly. She went without to give and I'm sure somehow this will be a blessing."

FINLAND

GREAT events sometimes hinge on small beginnings. Over two years ago, Mr. G. Rider, at present with the Radio School of the Bible, learned that his friend Mr. Don. McFarland had had fruitful visits to Scandinavia with the Bible Club Movement. In that we had come home in order both to develop interest in England and to extend on the Continent it was suggested that I should make contact with Mr. McFarland. It was because of this initial contact that we found ourselves in Finland from 16th April to 7th May.

Although Finland has over one thousand years of history, it has, in fact, only been independent for the last fifty years. During this time it has fought three wars. The Finns therefore, as a people, know what it is to battle for their very existence. I believe this has produced a rugged, self-reliant type of person who should do well in our own particularly difficult field of North Africa.

Finland is 93% Lutheran and as such the most Protestant Lutheran country in the world. The state church is like its counterpart in many other countries. There is an increasing number of evangelical Finns within the Church who feel that it has a name that it lives but is dead. It is because of this that there have been five "revival" movements in its last one hundred and fifty years of history. The modern truly evangelical Finn with whom we shall have to do is a combination of the best elements of these movements. Because of the liberalism of the State Church, a group of evangelical Lutherans have formed a new Finnish Evangelical Lutheran society, sometimes called the People's Mission, but the name itself has not yet been finalised. This is just about one year old. The leaders of this mission feel that at least for the fore-

seeable future it will remain Lutheran because of their own convictions and also in order to retain the support of the evangelical Lutherans in the country. The remarkable thing about this new society is that it is definitely looking for fields in which to work and has a strong interest in muslim work.

At the beginning of our trip we had a number of meetings of the I.V.F. type. It was of particular interest here to meet an old friend, "Stige", who was at one time a student of mine in Tunisia. He is now an ordained Lutheran pastor and there is every indication that the Lord is leading him back to Tunisia. Although he is still a young man he has had five years theological studies and knows French and Arabic thoroughly.

We had a complete week of travel with meetings in many major centres in Finland. There was a very fine interest and response in all of these meetings. Then it was my privilege to be in the new Mission's Bible School for a week. During this time I gave three lectures each day on Islam and North Africa. Towards the end of our stay there I had several extended periods with the Principal, so that every angle of the NAM method of working could be discussed.

It was a very real privilege to meet Mr. J. Lindgren, the secretary of the new mission, who organised the trip with great efficiency and whose vision is a real encouragement to us. In the same way it was a privilege to meet the chairman of the Board as well as the Principal of the Bible College, and these Godly men are certainly seeking to fulfil God's plan in co-operation with us in North Africa at this time.

There have been so many definite factors that have come together at this time that encourage us to believe that developments in Scandinavia could well be the Lord's leading to us.

Movements of Missionaries

PETER THORNE



TLEMCCEN, which is a large town in Western Algeria near to the Moroccan border, will be the place to which I shall, God willing, be going. The main item on the agenda is to learn the colloquial Arabic, with the help of a young Algerian teacher and Bernard Leat, who already has a good knowledge of Arabic. Bernard and his wife have been working at Tlemccen since the beginning of the year.

As well as seeking new contacts among the people of this town, a very important part of the work is that of establishing personal contact with those who have already had contact with the Mission through the radio and Bible correspondence work. I quote part of a prayer letter from Bernard: "The young fellows who call in rarely come alone. We usually play back an R.S.B. radio programme recorded from ELWA a few days earlier. A group of five high school students who come on Saturday evenings have proposed a series of talks followed by discussion. Only one is a B.C.C. student, the son of an Imam (spiritual leader in Islam) who has done two courses."

MARGARET HIGGS



IT WAS a great surprise to receive news from the Mission, that I had been assigned to Marrakesh in the south of Morocco for one year. This is a language assignment as I shall be living with an experienced missionary, who will be teaching me colloquial Arabic. I am delighted as she is a midwife, working in the homes of the people, so I shall also be able to learn some aspects of her work. Having read a little about Marrakesh, I understand it is the capital of the South, having great charm, in being still so marked in its tradition and culture. I am looking forward to going very much. Of course, I am now feeling a little sad to be leaving my many friends in Montpellier for it is wonderful how the Lord has given me several homes here.

THE MACKELLARS



Mr. and Mrs. MacKellar having completed their French studies are now going to Rabat in Morocco where they will help in the bookshop ministry and continue their Arabic studies.

New Candidate

STEPHEN TROWBRIDGE



THE LORD first drew Stephen to himself through Jeremiah 31: 3 "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." His early ambition to join the Merchant Navy could not be realised and so he decided to make art his career. Then followed three years in Cambridge School of Art during which time experience was gained as a lay preacher, but the conviction grew that the Lord wanted him for overseas service. Three years at All Nations Missionary

College both clarified and deepened this conviction.

Stephen is engaged to Miss Elizabeth Miller, who is completing her teacher training. Let us pray that the Lord will make it possible for Stephen to leave for France by January 1969. Meanwhile he would gladly avail himself of any opportunity to give his testimony to groups large or small.

“ *Much Affliction, With Joy* ”

MURIEL BUTCHER AND LYDIA HUGLI (Oran)

MY heart rejoices over the fact that there have been several in Algeria to whose hearts God could speak. They have listened and believed His Word.

Sodea is one of them. She is a twenty year old married woman. I remember when we first contacted her almost four years ago. We had received her address through the office of the Bible Correspondence Courses, and so one day we set out to find her house in one of the outlying districts. Just as we arrived at the door the postman came. We all waited outside until a young girl opened the door—and she was Sodea. The letter which the mail contained was for her. It came from Marseilles with the new B.C.C. lesson! It was easy to introduce ourselves to the girl in telling her that we had come to see if she needed some help with her lessons. She invited us in. We found ourselves in a big courtyard with several doors leading to apartments. While Sodea was guiding us through the courtyard and up a winding stairway to the first floor, all the women and children came out to see the Europeans. We received a friendly reception from Sodea's mother and while we were drinking mint tea and eating some biscuits we chatted together. We found out that Sodea had left school. She was now helping her mother at home and preparing her “trousseau” to get married.

A few months later we received an invitation to attend her wedding. She looked very pretty in her gold embroidered dress, with a lovely crown on her head and the beautiful jewellery round her neck and her arms. Sodea was taken to her husband the next day where she began her new life with him and her mother-in-law. We visited her shortly afterwards. She had arranged the apartment very tastefully and we were pleased to see her certificate from the “Radio School of the Bible” hanging on the wall in the living room. She did not seem to be ashamed that she was studying the Bible.

However, many things have happened since in Sodea's life. They moved to another little house still further away from us. We saw her very seldom and to our grief, found out that she could not continue with the course any more. The Bible was blasphemy—so said some members of her family. Life was not always easy for her. She and her mother-in-law did not get on together and her husband was jealous of her. He only let her go out to the public bath and then she had to be accompanied by his mother. During our rare visits we tried to read with her but it was not always possible. Sodea had a New Testament which she was reading from time to time. Since we have a car we have visited her weekly and started a Bible course with her. She has been enjoying these studies so much and has been simply drinking in the Word. It was wonderful to see how her heart was prepared and we were amazed how much she understood. Before Christmas, Sodea not only list-

ened but believed in God's Word and accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour. Since then she has learned to pray, has memorised Bible verses and is very eager to witness to her husband, neighbours and friends about Jesus, that they too might be saved.

Another one, about whom I would like to tell you is Badra, who will be twenty-one years old this year. She received from one of her school friends a leaflet for the B.C.C. and applied for the course in 1963. She was then contacted for the first time and attended a few meetings. Badra was a very gay girl and although her mother was always commanding her around the house, she was usually in good spirits. We visited her quite frequently and on one of our visits we saw that her mother was a fortune-teller. This explained why we often found it so difficult to read God's Word in her presence.

At the end of 1964 Badra was married. She stayed with her husband for forty days and was then divorced. After that we lost contact with her for a long time until in a wonderful way the Lord brought us in touch with her again. What a sad story she had to tell us. She had been re-married twice in the meantime and she is now living separated from her husband. She has a six month old baby, the sweetest little girl you have ever seen—the joy of her mother.

We went to pick her up recently to take her over to Sodea's for their Bible Study. She was not at home and her father told us that her husband had returned from France and beaten her for reading the Bible and had insisted that she return her Bible to us and that she had gone to live with him and his mother at a nearby village. He did not ask me in, and though we heard the mother's voice behind the curtain, she did not come out. He gave us the Bible and a New Testament that Badra had used, together with a letter from her. We read the letter outside in the car and found that all this was untrue.

She wrote that a relative, who is a muslim teacher, had denied that Jesus died for all and said that if she continued to believe this she would no longer belong to "the people of Mohamed". She had had an argument with her mother who listened to this man and her mother told her that if she wanted to be a christian she would have to leave her home but that she must leave her baby behind. She wrote, "I am very unhappy . . . I will try to continue the B.C.C. from Marseilles. I have the Gospel of John. You can come and see me from time to time and I will write to you. I have none to go to. This is too much for me."

The only encouraging thing about this is that it proves the reality of her faith. We are sure that He who has brought her thus far will make a way for her and bring her through. Her experience is so similar to that of another and He certainly worked things out for her.

IN those days Gentle was always in the home looking after the family, under the authority of her older brother, the bread-winner, and her uncle, who considered himself their guardian. So the Lord very gently but surely began to loosen the ties that bound her to them all. First, she took a year's training and began working in a hospital as a nursing-aid. This gave her a new independence of thought and action. Then the brother married, and this broke the very close bond that had existed between them. Still, she and the two younger sisters clung together. But eighteen months ago, she herself married and went to live with her husband's parents, and the father-in-law began to object to the two sisters spending so much time there. So she found herself almost entirely cut off from her family, in company that was not nearly so congenial to her. She gave birth to a dear little girl, but her mother and father-in-law, and even her husband, were so disappointed it was not a boy, that they took little notice of the baby. So, rather sad and lonely, Gentle's thoughts turned back. And one day, after quite a long absence, I came to see her. "Oh", she said, "have you brought the Books with you? It is such a long time since I did any reading." So we read together,—albeit with some distraction from the baby. And next time I went I took a gospel of Luke with me to leave with her. She received it with such joy. Do "continue in prayer" then for Gentle, "with thanksgiving".

Helen Morriss

TUNIS, TUNISIA

WE have called at the homes of some of our BCC students in town, mostly boys or young men. The good reception we were given surprised us. However, those who answered the door at the last two houses we visited denied the fact that those whose names we mentioned lived

there. We have now written personal letters to these two.

There are some fellows who visit us regularly besides more casual callers. They almost invar-

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ably come in the evening though some of them are unemployed. All have come as the result of just two initial contacts. Usually they are rather timid at first and bring a friend for moral support. Sometimes there are half a dozen in the group. Sometimes Bernard is half way through when a ring at the door announces a newcomer. He usually spends a few minutes chatting and then has a Bible study. Some of the fellows become brave enough to face him alone! Others are so keen they turn up again the next day although it had been arranged for them to come at a later date. Some are well educated; others have never been to school—so the approach must vary.

It is a joy to have Salih living as close as Oran. He is the first boy who came to Bernard at the Tetuan farm before we were married. He stayed two and a half years at the farm. He has been engaged in colportage work in Algeria for several years. A week ago we had a very pleasant visit from him when he stayed here for a few days. During this visit he had two days of encouraging colportage in nearby villages and a day off duty when we enjoyed a time of fellowship and recreation. Salih is in need of a place to live in Oran and this is difficult to find.

Vivian and Bernard Leat

TLEMCCEN, ALGERIA

LATELY we have had more contacts with Zeineb. This young lady frankly declares that the Gospel has no message for her, yet she likes to come to our house quite often. She has

constant reminder of his shaky financial position. Not quite shabby, but certainly not fitting his position as a grade school teacher. There are many like him. Some are unable to finish their education;

From the Prayer Letters

such a pessimistic outlook on life; haunted by fear, worn out by sleepless nights and frightening dreams, she has given herself over to deep sadness. She is from a well-to-do family, educated, good looking, yet declares that she has not known one day of happiness in her life. The Gospel message does not appeal to her at all, yet we are glad that she continues to come to us and we continue to pray for her, and I would recommend her also to your prayers.

Alma Strautins
SFAX, TUNISIA

BOUAZZA straddles somewhat the often not-too-wide gap between teacher and student. He had to leave school before his "baccalaureate". Typically, his family of eight needed support, and he, as the oldest, had to help. So, at nineteen, he has become a French teacher in a primary school. It is located on the far side of Rabat in a jammed new housing section.

As one looks at Bouazza, one feels a mixture of admiration and pity. Admiration, because he has a very keen mind, and is eagerly seeking to obtain his degree on his own. We feel pity, however, in looking at his clothes, which are a

some have a good level of training, but no job to fit it; many struggle on a shoestring, with a few ragged books as their most cherished possessions.

At present we are thankful for our new-found friend. He is a big help in our continued studies of Arabic. But we are even more thankful as we remember that God works "all things after the counsel of His own purpose". Whatever Bouazza's present purposes in contacting us may be, we know that God is bringing him our way for His purpose; that Bouazza might hear of Christ. It is such a joy to sense the Holy Spirit's very real presence, leading us in breaking down the wall of suspicion and prejudice that stands between us and our muslim friends. Bouazza has asked some very serious questions already, such as "What do you think of our religion?" and "How can God punish us, when He has made us weak?" Pray that God would help us to find His answers, not only for Bouazza, but for others whom we meet.

Margy and John Haines
SALE, MOROCCO

LAST Sunday was the second attempt this winter to invite all teenage girls with whom

we have had contact. The first time it was an over night, all day Sunday gathering. This time we met only for the afternoon. Of the twenty girls invited, only one with whom we have had regular contact came. A young school teacher with whom we have made recent contact was with us and it was obvious that this was a new experience for her. Two girls who had been to camps a few years ago brought another friend. We had prayed much for the national christian who wanted to clarify some issues with the girls relating to Islam and Christianity that she felt we missionaries didn't understand. How thrilling to sense from the very onset of the afternoon the control of the Holy Spirit and

that the Lord had arranged this meeting far differently than we had planned. He brought an entirely different group of girls than we expected. Recognising it wise to give our national christian liberty as to her choice of subject, we rejoice in the obvious Spirit preparation as she opened the Word to the girls. Little reference was made to the issues she previously thought to be so important. The meeting was in fact a Gospel meeting. For the first time in my ten years in North Africa I heard an Arab girl ask, "But how can one become a christian?" She, the friend referred to above, seemed sincere.

Doris E. Brown
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

(Continued from page 155)

in it, the size of very large marbles, and gave one to me. It must have been a big sacrifice for this dear little girl. She was no longer clean and well-groomed as in hospital. Her two little pigtailed stuck out from a tousled head of unkempt hair and she was back in her old torn and dirty clothes but underneath was a warm and loving heart and her eyes beamed with joy as she pushed the sweet into my hand.

Several years passed and again I met Mercy. She was now a little servant maid of nine or ten years old to a family with four or five small boys. Her job was to carry the youngest baby on her back, fetch and carry water and other things, in exchange for her keep. She was one of a big family of girls and this is often the practice in poor families. Life is hard for little Moroccan girls who are born into poor families. It is a life of drudgery right from the start.

The lady, Mercy worked for, is also one of our patients and she would be kind to her and see that she was clothed and fed, but this kind of life is irksome to a mountain child and some months later this arrangement came to an end and Mercy was sent back home.

Where is she now? She must be in her late teens and probably married with small children of her own. One thing we know—"the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth". He knows where she is and can bring back to her memory all that she heard about the Lord Jesus while in the hospital. Here is someone else you can pray for and one day maybe you will meet her too--in His presence.

SARDINE SANDWICH

JENNIE WILBERFORCE



“**F**ISH; fish; give me fish!” screamed the small girl on the hospital bed, as she saw the dressing trolley coming towards her. Almost immediately a nurse arrived breathless with a huge sardine sandwich and thrust it into the child’s hands. Everyone dreaded the time when the extensive burns had to be dressed and the one

thing that saved the situation was a sardine sandwich.

Mercy was a mountain child and had received severe burns while jumping over the clay pit containing charcoal embers. Her loose baggy trousers had caught fire and she was fortunate to be alive. The first extensive dressings were done under anaesthetic but the child hated even the smell of ether or “muska” as she called it. One day we discovered her great passion for sardines and what a relief it was to find something to quieten her shrill crys. With her teeth embedded in the luscious tasty fish, she heeded not the ministrations of the nurses to her lower limbs.

She stayed with us in hospital a whole year and became a different child, with smooth well-kept hair and clean clothing. She had plenty of opportunity to hear of Jesus Christ and learned to sing choruses in Arabic. She attended Sunday School and we were sorry when she left us.

After she went home to live, she made three-monthly trips on market days to have a check-up at the hospital. On one of these occasions she came to see me. I was in bed following an accident and as Mercy sat by the bed she seemed speechless and shy. Then she pulled out a piece of rag with two highly coloured large sweets

“ With Christ . . .

. . . far better ”

ALEXANDRE PADILLA is with the Lord. This afternoon under a Moroccan sky cloudless blue we laid to rest the body which has known for many long years progressive agonising limitations. Alexandre would have been forty two this next August.

For the past eighteen months we have witnessed increasing fatigue as the paralysis has pursued its unrelenting progression. Sometimes we saw temporary improvement but as crisis succeeded crisis it was evident that the respiratory powers were becoming weaker.

Accompanying this extreme physical weakness and the consequent fight for life was a spiritual conflict. Often we prayed together and claimed the power of the blood against prolonged attacks of the Evil One. During recent months our brother has been completely confident in the Lord. Sometime in moments of prostrate weakness he would say “*Le Seigneur est la*”: behind the face distorted by pain one was conscious of a heart at rest.

The end came, however, with surprising rapidity. On Thursday, the 6th, at 3 p.m. Rafaela phoned asking if I could come round to the house as Alexandre was more tired than usual. I found him in a state of collapse and he actually lost consciousness for a short period just before 4 p.m., then rallied giving us a further opportunity to talk of the Lord. He repeated some scriptures then framed the words of a chorus which he loved—“*Sur toi je me repose, O Jesus, mon Sauveur! Faul-il donc autre chose Pour un pauvre pecheur?*” Alexandre remained lucid recognising the friends gathered in the room. At 5.20 p.m. the struggle was over, Alexandre slipped away to be for ever with the Lord. I fancied that I could hear echos of joy as he entered triumphantly the gates on the other side to receive his reward “*Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.*”

Bernard Collinson

THE ENDURING WORD

MURIEL BUTCHER (Oran)

IN Tlemcen, sections of the old ramparts that once surrounded the town are still standing. One of the corner walls looks particularly solid. The wall is thick and tall, and has withstood the weathering of centuries, and who knows what other onslaughts;—a grim picture of Islam which seems to persistently resist the influence of the Gospel. And yet, half way up this wall, sprouting through the bricks and mortar, are the twigs, branches and new green leaves of a fig tree. The virile strength of this tree has split the wall right down to the bottom in a widening crack which will doubtless bring the whole structure to ruin in years to come.

What a picture of the seed of the Word which has fallen into North African soil and seemed to die, only to produce a new life of such quality and virility that not even Islam can withstand it. We see evidence of this life in many places, but often it appears as a small and vulnerable plant that is no match for the strength of Islam. Do we have faith to believe that this divine life will grow, even within these walls, until they crumble before its strength? Jesus said, "If you

have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Having just returned from a brief visit to Morocco, we have seen many evidences of "the wall". It seemed strange to visit towns where we have lived and worked and to find that evangelistic meetings, children's classes and women's meetings have had to be suspended. It was sad to hear of some, who once seemed promising, now showing no signs of life. And yet what a joy to find groups of believers meeting in private homes, Bible studies led by national christians and news of conversions and baptisms. The pattern has changed, and adjustment has been difficult for many. The "tares" have perhaps been weeded out, but the divine life of the Spirit of God is deathless, and "the tree" is growing. Please pray for patience and wisdom and strong faith for the missionaries there, and for courage and perseverance for the national believers. Praise the Lord for the growth of His church and let us not fail Him by the smallness of our faith.

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR 1967

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Donations (including missionaries' support) ...	21,261	Missionaries' allowances ...	13,973
Legacies ...	1,505	Missionaries' work and expenses ...	10,097
Designated Gifts:		Hospital and medical work ...	309
Missionaries' work and expenses ...	1,732	Literature and radio work ...	350
Hospital and medical work ...	474	Home Payments:	
Literature and radio work ...	356	Magazine ...	987
		Deputation ...	627
		London Office Expenses ...	4,790
	25,328		31,133

The above is a simple abstract of figures (to the nearest £) relative to British Missionaries' support and London Office expenses. Copies of the full Audited Accounts will be sent on request.

For many months I have been under pressure to write an article on stewardship but time and again I have felt unable to do so. One reason for this would be the message of the above statement of accounts. How could I presume to write an article urging our friends to increase their giving in the face of such sacrificial support?

In November the country experienced devaluation. This meant we had to send fourteen per cent more than usual to the Field. In our need we asked the Lord to make it possible, even so, to send out full allowances and He has wonderfully supplied our needs. The faithfulness of God and His gracious promises are not subject to devaluation!

March was gold panic month and everybody thought we were bound to be in trouble. But as we are not redeemed by, nor are we dependent on silver or gold. If we trust our heavenly Father's care we need not be disturbed even if such a precious metal as gold loses its value.

In the month of April we decided to raise the allowance for retired missionaries, even so it remains minimal, and then on the last day of the month we had not enough even to pay priorities and retirement allowances. At the last moment a generous cheque came in which made these possible but practically nothing remained to send to the Field. On the first day of May a large legacy was received which made full allowances possible once again.

During these last eighteen months when it has been our privilege to send out full allowances we have sent out eight new missionaries, assumed our share of the Secretary-General's budget and likewise provided him with a shorthand typist. In many directions our share in the work of the Gospel in North Africa has expanded.

What do we learn from all this? Just this, that the faithfulness of God is unchangeable. It would be fair to say that the world has never known the changes we are experiencing these days but it is

always good, relevant and valid to trust God. This is not just because we have known a period of full allowances. Next month our heavenly Father in His sovereign and gracious wisdom, may be pleased to tax our devotion in a time of poverty. Paul learned and thus could say, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere, and in all things, I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I know of no better way to conclude than with his further words in verses 19 and 20 of that same chapter in Philipians. "My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Robert I. Brown

MATLOCK 1968

"A very grateful note of appreciation for the privilege of being at Matlock. How rich the fellowship of the saints was, and how our hearts bound at the sight (and testimonies) of those young folk with all their keen intellectual ability laid at the Master's feet."

NEW TITLE

We thank the many friends who responded to our request for a new title. The one provisionally accepted is "Frontline". This seems best to draw attention to the particular conflict in which our brethren and sisters are engaged.

MR. H. W. BUCKENHAM

Seven weeks after his beloved wife, Herbert Buckenham was himself called into the presence of the King. Not for him the glamorous but rather the un-spectacular, faithful witness of life and lip amongst those who called him "friend". At Colea, Blida, Souma and Algiers, the Buckenhams made it their aim to "please Him" who had called them to the Algiers Mission Band almost fifty years ago.

Early in his missionary career he had been entrusted with the treasury of The Band and it was always his first concern to see that none was short, dipping into his own pocket, one suspects, when funds were lower than usual.

The years at Dar Naama were exceedingly taxing and as the Algerian War dragged on his unwavering faith in Christ was an encouragement to many a young missionary.

Then they served their Lord together in Algeria, now, together "they serve Him and see His face". Ronald Waine.

N.B. We apologise for omitting to give credit to the Rev. A. Porteous of Greenock for the obituary to Mrs. Buckenham printed in our May issue.

FURLOUGH

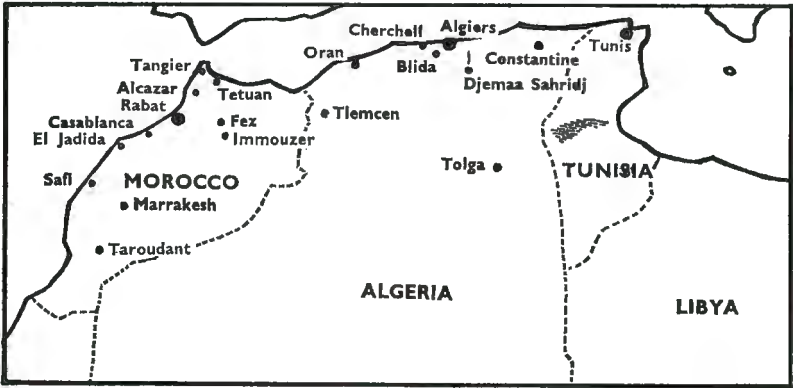
The following missionaries are due on furlough in the near future: Miss K. Castle; Mr. and Mrs. D. Harris; Miss L. Hugli; Mrs. A. Strautins; Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson.

RETURN TO FIELD

Miss G. Theakston returned to Tangier, Morocco during June.

GUIDED GIVING

We again give thanks to God for making it possible to send full allowances for the months of May and June.



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