
forward

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION

“ Let No Man Prevail Against Thee ”

“ **A**ND Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee.”

II Chronicles 14: 11

The situation in Morocco is at the moment particularly tense. A young American couple in our Mission, have been given a month to leave the country. At Kenitra where our friends the Barnets, independent missionaries, live and work, evangelistic work has been forbidden. The same demand has been made of our Gospel Missionary Union friends at Khemisset. John Thompson of Fez has been repeatedly interrogated and every attempt is being made to bring his testimony to an end. He has shown great wisdom and boldness and we should surround him much with our prayers. In view of the immense seriousness of the situation we urge that daily believing prayer be made for a real deliverance at this time.

The situation in Algeria by contrast is encouraging. Here again missionaries and national Christians have been closely interrogated, but the statement has been made that in Algeria you are free to follow the religion of your choice. Let us rejoice in this and pray for real blessing upon His church in that land.

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MARCH 1969

NEWS

FURLOUGH

We are glad to welcome the Longleys of Algiers home on furlough. You will have an opportunity of hearing them as they minister and tell of the work, in various parts of the country.

MATLOCK

We are to hold our conference again at Matlock this year. The dates are Saturday 24th to Monday 26th May. Remembering the stirring fellowship of last year, we are sure that you will want to book this once again. Please write for details to Mr. B. Hollinshead, 46 Windermere Avenue, Dane Bank, Denton, Manchester.

PRAYER LETTERS

We are always delighted to link friends in the homeland with missionaries on the Field by means of the missionary's personal prayer letter. May we invite you to write for the name and address of the distributor of the missionary's prayer letter in whom you would like to take a closer prayerful interest.

NORTH AFRICAN VISIT

The Rev. and Mrs. Robert I. Brown will be travelling across North Africa in April and May and would value prayer for a fresh anointing of His Spirit for this fellowship and ministry.

GIFTS

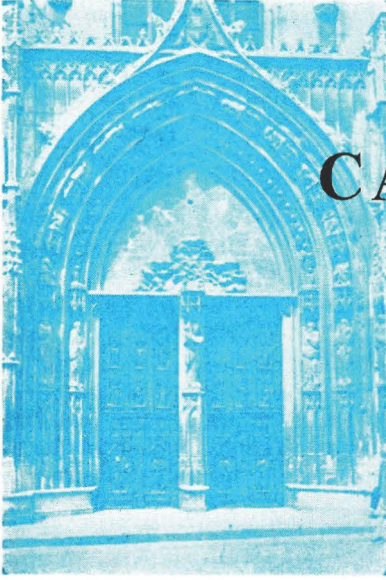
Please note that when sending cheques, postal orders, etc. they should be made out to "North Africa Mission" and not to departments of the work, e.g. Radio School of the Bible, nor to individuals either at home or on the Field. If your gift is for a designated purpose or person, although the cheque, etc. is made out to "North Africa Mission" we shall ensure that it is applied or sent as you request.

More and more people are now using the Credit Transfer System for sending gifts. To use this system it is necessary to know the name and address of our bankers, who are Barclays Bank Ltd. (Code No. 20-40-54), 54 Highgate High Street, London N.6.

GUIDED GIVING

It is with thankfulness to God that we are again able to report the sending of full allowances for the months of January and February.





CATHEDRAL PARABLE

JESSIE
STALLEY

IN Aix-en-Provence we have a very ancient cathedral, parts of which date back to the 4th and 5th centuries. In it there is a Roman baptistery, tapestries which were ordered for Canterbury Cathedral in the year 1511 and other interesting things. When we first passed by the cathedral I wondered why such an ancient and beautiful church had such plain and ugly doors—just made of ordinary wood, old and stained and with no ornamentation at all. But, one day as I passed down the street I saw a group of people standing in front of the cathedral and to my surprise a verger was pointing out to them two very beautiful doors with the most exquisite carvings!

The outer, plain doors had been unlocked and folded back to reveal these wonderful carvings which date back to 1510! There were twelve panels, each with a carved figure, every one of them significant, surrounded with representations of vines, fruits and flowers. Those plain wooden doors were there to protect the priceless carvings from the hands of vandals.

I have seen the carvings several times since then and every time one sees some fresh detail at which to wonder. It seemed to me a sort of parable of our work among Muslims. Many onlookers do not see much evidence of results. It all looks rather bare and uninteresting. Nothing to write home about! But, all the time the Lord's handiwork is there, hidden and preserved for those who have the eyes to see it—the work of His hands. We are sure that many, even now in North Africa, are in the process of being “carved” into His likeness. Pray for them.

Contacting Young People

PETER THORNE

AFTER a lot of trouble with the "three times a week" group of boys from our locality we have discontinued the meetings, and although Bernard Leat is still prepared to receive them in small numbers, I am concentrating on another group entirely different. There is a very sharp class distinction at Tlemcen. If you are eighteen and at grammar school and your father has a good job, you do not mix with those lower down the social scale. Likewise, as far as making the Gospel known, the approach is entirely different. For instance, I can have a group of grammar school boys in my room, which I have made into a modern type lounge; they can be trusted and really appreciate being welcomed into the home of a European.

We had the joy of entertaining eleven such boys. Like any English group of lads might perhaps do, they brought their record player and we patiently listened to the Beatles, Moody Blues, Tom Jones, etc. and then we played them a "Life of Christ" that I have made of beautifully read taped Scripture passages concerning our Lord's birth, death and resurrection, recorded for me by three French friends. This was followed by about one and a half hours non-stop questioning by them. That is not unusual. It is quite normal for teenagers to ask

you for instance, privately or in front of their friends, such questions as: "How do **you** pray?" "What do you mean by a 'pure heart'?"

I have joined the well run French Cultural Centre and Library at Tlemcen. This is run by the French for the Algerians and gives me opportunity to meet more fellows. A mixed group is out of the question, and I have not met one Algerian girl yet. Tlemcen is probably the most strictly traditional large town in Algeria. No woman is ever seen out in the street with a man. A man cannot take his wife out for a walk. There are no opportunities for fellows and girls to meet. Public life; the cultural centre, cinema, cafes, are for men only. A respectable woman who has accepted European culture dare not walk out in Tlemcen without being completely veiled (one eye only is to be seen through the Algerian veil) although when she is in her home or in another town she may look like any European woman.

Please pray that I may meet those with open minds and hearts. My hopes of obtaining a part-time teaching job before next Autumn look slender, but it would seem that God has brought me in touch with some of the kind of boys I want to meet despite this.

MOROCCAN MEAL

FLORA LOGAN

WOULD you like to join us on this visit? It was our first time to this home and we were all invited. The house had a large entrance where we could leave our bikes. After leaving them there we were taken upstairs to a beautifully furnished Moroccan room. Of course, we took our shoes off as there was a lovely carpet in the room, although later a young Moroccan girl with knee-length boots entered and kept her boots on.

Our young hostess, a sweet girl of about nineteen, is a school teacher and she had invited one or two fellow school-teachers along to this meal. One of them, who shows a keen interest in spirituals matters, we have known for some years.

Soon after we arrived the servant girl came round with the basin and kettle of water to wash our hands in the usual way, after which we all gathered around the round table. Our hostess seemed to be enjoying a joke which we couldn't understand until the lid was removed and there lying in the middle of the large dish were about a dozen little hard peas! We shared in the joke and laughed together with her.

When the first dish did come in there were lots of exclamations as it was one of the special dishes comprising of many layers of very thin pastry filled with almond paste, decorated on top with icing sugar. Before we commenced, our young school teacher friend said, "These people pray before eating" and so one of our number was asked to pray. The dinner continued with chickens with olives; meat with almonds and raisins; lots of salads and then fruit. Later we had tea and Moroccan biscuits.

Our hostess' older brother joined us. He brought along a very nice electric stereo record player. The girls had asked one of our friends to bring a French record and we listened to "How Great Thou art" and other hymns, and in addition, a few verses of Scripture. The young man willingly discussed spiritual matters.

We long to see these young people coming to know the Truth. There are many such young people who seem to be dissatisfied with things as they are and are seeking for something better. You could not join us for the lovely meal but will you join us in praying for them?



MUSLIM WORSHIPPERS LEAVING A MOSQUE

B.C.C. STUDENT

EXPERIENCES OPPOSITION

OUR correspondence courses are often used with profit by North African young people who have been contacted through a personal ministry, but who need objective Bible study. Such a one is Nadia, who is in her last year of high school studies; she was converted through the ministry of missionaries in a camp this past summer. Upon her return home, she wrote to us: "During my stay at camp, the Word of God appeared to me in all its truth and splendour, but I still need to learn many more things about God."

Opposition

Since she was from a Muslim family she knew that she would have many difficulties. At the time of writing she had already begun to experience these difficulties, for, when she spoke to her father of her camp experience, he reacted in violent opposition. In the aftermath of this experience, she decided to write to us and to begin studying the Scriptures by correspondence. At that time, there was a ray of hope of escape from this trial for her, since she was enrolled in a boarding school some distance from her home. She requested that we send her mail to that school.

Ray of Hope

Another letter has come from Nadia within the last few days asking us to modify her address again because her mail has been opened by school officials who were persuaded only with difficulty to give her the Bible lessons. There is yet another ray of hope of continuing the courses unmolested as a friendly teacher offered to receive mail for her thus sparing her the harassment of the director. She closed her letter with an expression of gratitude for our work and asked the Lord's blessing upon us.

As Nadia faces these various forms of opposition, let us uphold her in prayer that the "rays of hope" might open up to floods of joy in Christ Jesus.

PRAISE the Lord for His wonderful overruling in the police questioning of some of the Christians in Algiers. One happened to be there and had to go to the police station seven times. They finally let him keep his colporteur permit and said that Algerians have the right to change their religion, but that they should register and produce two photos when they do so. The Christian concerned was encouraged and felt that this was a step forward in the official recognition of Christians in Algeria. So far an Algerian had been synonymous with Muslim.

Pray for Si-Embareq, colporteur with the Bible Society and elder of the Christian Assembly at Dar Namma, Algiers. He has very suddenly lost his wife and is unwell himself. Pray for his daughter, Mounira, who came from England for the funeral, that she will be guided and given courage to accept the Lord's will for her future.

Muriel Butcher
ORAN, ALGERIA

ONE of the student nurses went to England in September. She is in Clarendon School improving her English until the summer when she goes to the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies to work for her S.C.M. Those who go to England for further training do not necessarily come back to this hospital. Some go into the State hospitals in either this country or Algeria, where they have great opportunities and great testings and temptations. One is in the State hospital here and is known as a Christian and lives a



consistent life there. Two others may be doing likewise in the near future. Another is returning to Algeria to work there. Pray for these "cells" that Christ may be able to work through them.

We have seven student nurses with us at present, two Algerian and five Moroccan. All profess to be Christians and I think they are. The two older ones have developed both spiritually and in other ways in the last year, and it has been a real joy to see them grow. The younger ones, and they are much younger—aged 14-17, are promising too. Pray that the Lord will keep and lead each one of them.

One of them called Maleeka, lives at home at present but we hope to have her living in with the others soon. She used to come to the Outpatients as a ragged little girl of ten years, always with a little brother on her back and one or two more hanging on to her skirts. She used to tell me with bright confidence that she was going to be a nurse when she was old enough. I didn't take her too seriously, but sure enough she's been with us about eighteen months working in the hospital on duty.

in the Prayer Letters

and even harder at home, when off duty. We've at last persuaded her people to let her come in and concentrate on one job. She is taking the Bible Correspondence Course in what spare time she has, keeping her Bible at the hospital because it would have a short life at home, and staying overtime to come to Bible Classes. Pray for her, that she may have freedom to follow Christ, and that He will not only keep a restraining hand on her family, particularly her father, but that He will change their attitude.

Gwen Theakston
TANGIER, MOROCCO



BY the time this letter reaches some of you the doors of our bookshop here in Rabat will be closed to the public. For us the vision of more workers has not become reality and unlike the shepherds our hearts are sad. The decision to close down at the end of the year mainly because of lack of personnel was a disappointment to me even though I expected it.

The question in my own heart has been—"Have I lacked in prayer that the vision for literature workers has not become a reality?" The answer is known to God alone but the challenge remains. Though we may not be able to rejoice as the shepherds of old yet like them we can still praise and glorify God. We can praise Him that the door of opportunity is still open and who knows, the Lord may even yet send in reinforcements so that later on we can open another bookshop again in this land.

In the New Year I will be returning to work again with Mr. and Mrs. Thompson in the Fez bookshop and would value your prayers that the Lord will bind our hearts together in the bonds of Christian love and unity.

Ruth Barkey
RABAT, MOROCCO



WE were taken to Bob Cox's house and given a much appreciated breakfast by his wife. With Mr. Cox's help we registered at the University and

obtained student meal cards and tickets, enabling us to eat at the student restaurants.

The next day we started at the University. We had to join a class which had started about a month before. We found this rather difficult as we had not studied French before. With extra lessons at the University and extra lessons from Mr. Cox we started to make some progress. After two weeks we were asked if we would like to wait until 3rd February and join a new class which was starting then. So we left the University temporarily and join again on the 3rd. Meanwhile we are receiving tuition from Mr. Cox.

Sue and Peter Dobson
MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

OUR attempt to have teenage girls every other Sunday has not been very encouraging because of conflicting home responsibilities and school schedules. However, a second effort for a retreat during the school holidays resulted in much blessing to nine girls and ourselves as we sat under the teaching of a national Christian young man. Discoveries were made during that retreat. We discovered release of hidden talent and the girls discovered the difference between Islam and Christianity, who Jesus Christ is, and what it means to believe. It was evident by their questions that the Holy Spirit was at work in individual hearts. Pray for fruit that will remain. The next school vacation is in late March. It would seem right to plan a similar retreat.

Doris Brown
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

TAHAR II is following keenly. Shortly after the Chercshell conference he wrote that he had now become a real Christian. He has inquired about baptism. Again the question of parental permission comes up.

Amar says that he has just been through a spiritual crisis. Facing squarely the issue of whether to give up Christianity or whether to commit his life fully to Christ. He decided for the latter.

Then, as he puts it, the struggle began, as several things which he had not seen as wrong up to then suddenly began to appear as sin.

God has been answering prayer also, in bringing Amar through several experiences designed in divine wisdom to humble him. One was several low marks in recent school exams. When I suggested to him God's design in this, he replied, "You know, that's exactly the thought which came to me about half an hour ago. And I certainly had need of humbling." May that openness to the Lord's dealings continue.

Wendel Evans
CONSTANTINE, ALGERIA

A Land the Lord Cares for

MURIEL BUTCHER

“ . . . a land which the Lord thy God careth for; the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.”

Part of this verse was the first thing that came to my mind on New Year's Day. On looking it up I was a little disappointed to find that it referred to “a land”, but if the Lord cares so much for “a land” surely He cares none the less for His people. How precious to know that His eyes are upon us and that not one day of this year will pass outside of His loving care.

Farmer Cares

Barbara Bowers and I have just returned from a two-day visiting trip to Al Asnam. In a spell of unusually cold weather with daybreak temperatures down to 33° F., the countryside was just beautiful in the clear, bright sunshine. We passed many wooden ploughs turning over the rich soil; the ploughman guiding it from behind while the two horses pulled from in front. Further along, sowers were scattering seed from sacks strapped around their shoulders. In other places young, green wheat was just sprouting. The vines have all been neatly pruned ready for fruit-bearing next summer. It was easy to see which parts of the land were cared for. Areas of unworked ground, thistles, rocks and straggly olive trees all told their own tale.

When a farmer cares for his land each part of it gets his special attention all the year round. And so with the Lord. “He purposes a crop” here in Algeria, so His eyes are upon His “land” from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. Sometimes it will be sowing, sometimes ploughing, sometimes pruning and the slow waiting for growth. But it is all with the harvest in view, and He never stops caring.



NORTH AFRICAN YOUNGER GENERATION

This is a great comfort to us here in Oran. We have already seen many tokens of the Lord's care for His children and we have the assurance that His eyes will always be upon them.

Al Asnam

The town of Al Asnam with its 75,000 inhabitants is another "land" which the Lord our God cares for. We no longer have a place in which to hold meetings there, so each time we go, we have to stay in a hotel and visit the girls in their homes. This does mean that we meet the families, but it is very difficult to have any sort of serious Bible study with a girl during a brief visit when all her family is around her having a good look at the "Romians" (Europeans). However we were very encouraged this time by the number of girls who are still studying the Bible Correspondence Course in spite of very little encouragement. A brother of one of the girls said: "A lot of fellows are doing those courses too, some of them are just curious, but several are really interested." The eyes of the Lord our God are upon this town and He sees the desperate need of more missionary personnel to reach these young people.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT
FROM AN ALGERIAN *TELEVISION*
INTERVIEW

Independent ?

Mme. Fadela, you are a high school teacher. You have also been a soldier with the F.L.N. But, two years after independence, you wrote books on the Algerian women. These books are not gentle towards women, and certainly not towards men. Why?

During the war, the women fought, they fought spontaneously, but they were not free; they carried out the orders that the men gave them.

And after independence?

After independence, they were told, very good, you have done your duty: now this little break is over, go back to your traditional place. And many soldier women even went back to veiling themselves after marrying according to tradition with the one whom their family had chosen for them. I wanted to show by my books that there is a contradiction between what is said, the Algerian Charter, the Constitution on the one hand, and on the other, the reality of daily life for the Algerian woman in the street, in her work, in her family.

What is this reality?

I will give you an exact example: Article 18 of the family Code says that those incapable of answering for themselves, minors, the mentally deficient and women, even if they are majors, need a guardian in order to get married. Two years after independence!

Modern ?

It is said that in Algiers young girls who have a husband presented to them whom they do not know prefer to commit suicide rather than obey their parents.

Yes, and I shall probably shock you by saying that that proves that young girls have a conscience. Many young girls nowadays do

not accept traditional marriage. When they are forced, they hardly have any choice: suicide or the street. There is nowhere to welcome them when they have conflicts with their parents. Many of them commit suicide. Two years ago, one suicide was registered every two days. And that is without counting those who die before reaching hospital. The families hide the suicide, which they consider to be a dishonour. I remember a young girl whom I went to see in hospital; she was disfigured, and had burnt her throat. All that her father could find to say was, "Oh my poor daughter, you have dishonoured me."

Thirsting ?

"Jesus answered and said unto her, ' . . . whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.' The woman saith unto him, ' Sir, give me this water, . . . ' "



INFORMAL GROUP OF MISSIONARIES

(L. to R. Monique Van De Velde, Peggy Call,
Vivian Leat, Paul McCullough, Muriel Butcher.)



IT was in 1921 that Stanley Miles, having spent some months in the hospitable home of Mr. E. H. Glenny, the founder of the North Africa Mission, went out to Tunis City as a young missionary recruit. And it was as a member of the household of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Liley — veteran workers — that Stanley was launched upon his French and Arabic studies, and derived inspiration and help as he mingled with the group of godly and gifted missionaries who then laboured in the great and fascinating city.

In due time the Lord provided Stanley with the very best of wives—Mademoiselle Marguerite Bureau, whose parents were the first N.A.M. missionaries ever in Tunisia, occupying that country in 1888. Stanley was at Sfax when I was at Kairouan, and we saw one another quite a lot, and joined in rewarding itinerations together in the little-frequented areas of Tunisia.

During the ensuing years the country of Stanley's adoption

underwent many vicissitudes; and he and his wife and daughter had a poignant experience of hazard and hardship when Tunis City was occupied by air-borne German troops, and Stanley perforce went into hiding.

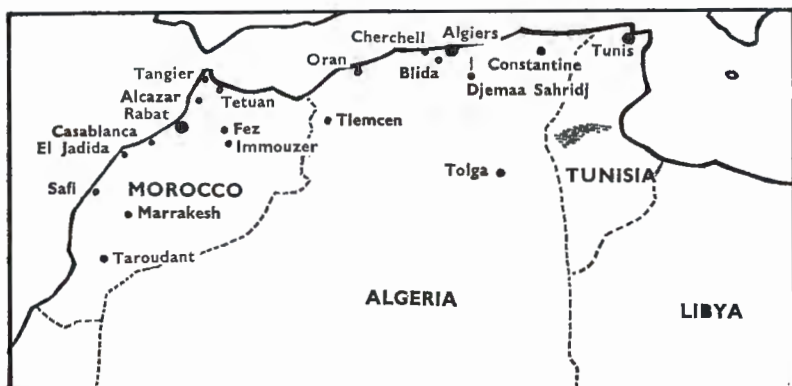
Later came the period when young American missionary recruits reinforced the witness in Tunisia, and Stanley—now a grey-haired veteran—became the adopted grandpa of their children. Our beloved brother always had a genius for friendliness, and none had a more winsome approach than he among the Arab men and youths of Tunisia—particularly the simple country folk and the city urchins.

It was fitting that, for a period whilst health and strength and travel facilities permitted, Stanley should, in retirement, serve upon the Council of the N.A.M. His experience of the Field was long and valuable.

His illness, major operation, and later decline were a deep grief and regret to all those of us who had known him for so long. Yet the frail, courageous brother whom most of us last saw at the Annual Meeting in October had a radiance and an endearing mellowness about him that evoked gratitude to God for His sustaining and enriching grace.

Our brother was called Home on 30th December, 1968 at the age of 71. Yet again, we would express to Mrs. Miles and daughter Muriel especially, and to all who grieve in this great loss, our loving and prayerful sympathy.

E.J.L.



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