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# forward

MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION

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## *Instruments of Defence*

BERNARD COLLINSON

**W**HY, in the Christian's armour, are the instruments of defence given apparent priority over the instrument of attack? One reason is that whereas the believer is not always on the offensive, he is always open to attack. Like an earthly enemy, the Devil uses the tactic of surprise stratagems. You will be setting aside time for prayer this month: I'm quite sure that the Devil will challenge your resolve so to do. Don't be surprised that he attacks **when** he does, **how** he does or **where** he does.

Even as we meet in small groups for prayer, or perhaps because we do so, we shall feel the opposition of the adversary. The insistence of the foe, the coldness of our own heart, the silence of our God, the inability to find access or even the feeling that prayer will not really change anything: all of these we shall experience in greater or lesser degree. At that moment, dear colleague, may I suggest that we do three things.

**RECOGNISE** this opposition as the calculated attacks of the adversary. Neither blame yourself nor your fellow workers nor the nationals in your midst. We are not ignorant of the Devil's devices. To the critic who could not believe in a personal Devil, Charles Haddon Spurgeon advised: "Try resisting him!" It is important to recognise that the wiles deployed against us are of Satan himself.

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**RESIST** the attacks by wielding the shield of faith. Bishop Ellicott points out that the word used in Ephesians 6 is "the

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large, heavy shield covering the whole body". The picture is that of entire protection. What is this shield of faith? Paget Wilkes comments: "The shield of faith is that which the hand of faith grasps and presents to meet the fiery darts of Satan. That shield is none other than the blood of Jesus." Plead the blood of Jesus: hope will be protected, love and truth will emerge unscathed, while renewed assurance will accompany restored communion. Never forget the Biblical sequence, first submission to God, then resistance to the Devil.

RECKON that Christ's complete victory is yours. Pass in review all that was secured at Calvary when our Lord made an open show of principalities and powers as He triumphed over them. By determined faith make His victory yours. Hear our Lord say: "Behold I give you power . . . over all the power of the enemy."

I realise that I have said nothing new. But, as we do just that there will be something new this month: new triumphs in us and through us, new power in prayer with sheer delight and new glory added to our Saviour's Name.

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## GUIDED GIVING

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

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the Embassy had told him to ask for a copy of any paper he was asked to sign. (John had contacted the Embassy after the second visit to the police). The Chief of Police then said that he would contact Rabat again and call John back later. Six weeks have now elapsed and the call has not yet come. Have they forgotten? Did the Chief decide to let the matter drop? Are they worried at Rabat about any possible publicity via the Embassy? Should John go back and see what the position is (so as to know whether to order stock for the shop or not) or should he lie low? The questions hammer at ones mind sometimes. The one thing we do know is that our God is still on the throne. Please pray that we may be kept in His peace and that He will go with us and undertake for us if we are called in again by the authorities.

The consul at the Embassy told John that it is not the government who is so anti-Christian work but they are prodded into taking action by the reports of the Opposition Istiqlal Party. He said that if this Party ever got into power all Christian workers would be out of the country even before the new Ministers had dusted their Ministerial desks!

The shop is still open and selling Christian books as well as the Scriptures. We have removed the pictures and open Bibles from the windows as these seem to provoke the fanatical Muslims. This we did with real sorrow as they had shown forth the Gospel in that way since the opening of the shop in December, 1960. One has to decide, in such a case as ours, just how far one can go and then whether it is God's will for one to carry on under such limited circumstances. At present we feel that as long as we can talk to people and sell our books we should stay.

# QUESTIONING AND RESTRICTIONS

VIOLET THOMPSON

IT was on the 18th December, 1968, that John was called to the police station for the first of three interviews (18th and 30th December and 22nd January, 1969). On the first two occasions he was seen by the officer in charge of the foreigner's department. This man said we had to remove all religious books from the shop. John showed him lists of such books passed by their Censor in Rabat. This caused him to say that he would raise this matter with Rabat (the capital city where the Ministries and Police H.Q. are situated). On the second visit he was asked about other missionaries who had been in Fes. He replied as vaguely as possible but the officer had a file on one of these friends and showed John a paper that identified the friend with the North Africa Mission. He said that they had the statutes of this Mission and its object was the evangelization of Muslims in N. Africa. It seems that it will be increasingly difficult for anyone without a *raison d'être* (e.g. bookshop, medical qualifications, etc.) to stay in the country. The friend in question was recently refused a residents permit and has had to leave the land. Then a longish discussion took place as to the rights and wrongs of our working here. John showed the official an extract from the "Declaration of Human Rights of which Morocco is a signatory. This spoke of liberty of faith, to change and to proselytize. This was immediately taken to be shown to the Chief of Police.

After a three week pause there was an urgent summons to see the Chief of Police. Taking time only

to collect his file of papers which might be useful in presenting his "case" and, in a brief prayer, to claim the promise of Luke 12.11 and 12. John hurried along. The Chief of Police was a youngish man and was very pleasant throughout. He made it clear that he did not want us to leave Fes but that he had to pass on to us the orders which he had received from the Minister of the Interior at Rabat. These, as accurately as John could remember them, were:—

1. There was to be no proselytism amongst Muslims.

2. There was to be no giving out of tracts in the streets or public places.

3. There was to be no opening of premises for the purpose of proselytism.

4. There was to be no giving or selling of Christian books to Muslims — with the exception of the Bible.

5. There was to be no exposing of pictures, open Bibles, etc., in windows for the purpose of proselytism.

These points were then discussed. The official seemed astonished when John said that he would close the shop and leave the country if he had to comply with these points. Then John asked whether he could have a copy of this paper containing the orders and which the Chief of Police wanted him to sign. He was told that this was not possible without permission from Rabat (obviously they fear what propaganda use it might be put to). He said that the British Authorities at

*Continued on previous page*

## *Awakened Minds*

“WESTERN missionaries have too often underestimated the cohesion of an Oriental race, appealing to their young people individually to turn to Christ, as though they were free to make personal decisions like the youth of the West.” (David Bentley-Taylor). How true I have proved this statement to be in my time here.

I have made friends with two brothers and they come regularly to see me. I also enjoy my visits to their nice home, where I am always welcome. The oldest, who is nearly nineteen, has spent many evenings with me. He has given up smoking which was badly affecting his health. He was quite unapproachable at first when it came to religion, but as the time has gone on he has listened more and more willingly and has a good grasp of certain Biblical truths. He came one day saying he had read the Crucifixion and Resurrection and was moved, and as I discussed its implications more fully with him that evening he had a job to conceal his emotion. The following day he came with his brother and both of them “threatened” me that if I continued to try and influence them towards Christianity any more they would “pass the word round” and none of them would return ever again to the house. The eldest confessed: “If I do as you say and pray to God to reveal to me if He has a son who died for me, I shall

become a Christian. Never speak to me again about Jesus.”

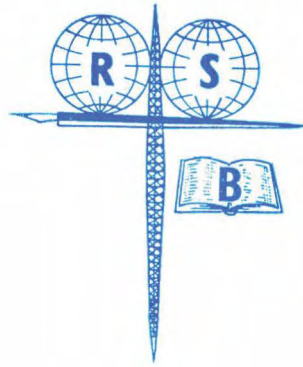
Two other lads have told me they feel drawn towards Christianity, but that for them to turn from Islam would be to commit sacrilege. These are most intelligent lads, but they are very illogical when it comes to religion. “We must not question or search God”, said T——, “or it will inevitably lead to us becoming Christians.” With one exception, I have nevertheless, been able to talk even more freely with them, several of them having started coming on their own to see me. As one said to me the other afternoon, “It seems as if we are drawn here.” Another lad of twenty has bought a Bible from me and has already completed a study of the Book of Revelation.

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### FURLOUGH

MISS L. GOODACRE of Tangier is due home on furlough during the month of May.

# RADIO SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE



**"I RECEIVED** the copy of the Bible that you sent me and I cannot find words adequate to express my appreciation and my great joy. The best moments of the day are those which I spend with the Word of God." So wrote Raheema, a teenage girl from Algeria, following completion of her fourth correspondence course.

For the past several months we have been following Raheema in a special way in our prayers; for in her answers to the questionnaires and in her letters she has shown an unusually deep understanding of the Scriptures for a correspondence course student.

Just a few weeks ago it was finally possible for a missionary from another town to make contact with Raheema for the first time. The report of that visit was most thrilling to us because it indicated what God is able to do in a human life through the printed page and radio broadcasts.

Raheema is a well-educated girl, the daughter of a leading figure in the town. However, as is often the case in North Africa, she is kept shut in at home by her parents. Her father, in particular, has shown opposition to her study of the Scriptures, but she continues to study the Word in secret because of its meaning to her. Our missionary friend also found out that Raheema has been listening to Gospel broadcasts in French and in Arabic for a number of years. It was through these broadcasts that she heard of the correspondence courses and was interested enough to write in for the lessons.

From all that she has written to us and from her statements to our friends, Raheema gives evidence of being a sincere believer in Christ, with a deep desire to know more about Him and His Word.

As we remember Raheema, let us be encouraged by God's working in her life. Let us be challenged to pray that she might grow in her new faith in order to be used of God among her own people, beginning with her own family. Further, let us ask the Lord to give wisdom and discretion to our missionary friend as she has opportunity to instruct Raheema in the Scriptures, revealing to her the significance of belonging to the Body of Christ.

# CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SAMUEL P. SCHLORFF

**A**MONG God's purposes for North Africa, according to our understanding of our Lord's commission to His disciples, the establishment of vital indigenous churches looms large. We believe it was for this reason that He raised up the North Africa Mission, among others, which has been working there to this end for nearly ninety years. Although the work has had its ups and downs we rejoice to see, scattered thinly here and there, little nuclei of believers forming and growing. Growth seems to be so slow, even imperceptible at times because of the setbacks; nevertheless there is growth. It is possible to speak of an "emerging church".

Yet the thread of life seems to be still so tenuous. How easily it would appear to be broken. Widespread poverty, unemployment and increasing opposition at all levels continually ravage the little groups of believers. They tend to be highly susceptible to the loss of members who leave in search of work, vulnerable to attack from without and sin within, and enfeebled by the numbing effect of poverty. Missionaries to North Africa know only too well the burden that Paul carried when he wrote that on top of all his trials "there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches" (2 Cor. 11:28). In our case the sense of urgency clamours ever louder and nearer with warnings that increased restrictions on missionary work by foreign-

ers, in its usual forms, loom ahead.

Yet the prospects for achieving the objective are brighter than ever. Technological advances have made it possible to reach out to evangelize more widely and quickly than was possible before. In particular, the co-ordination of radio, Bible Correspondence Courses, and literature evangelism is enabling the Radio School of the Bible at Marseilles, France, to reach out to thousands who could never be reached otherwise by the present missionary force. Not only have these ministries been an effective means of leading many to faith in Christ; they are also creating a vast "pool for evangelism" comprising North Africans who now have at least an idea of what the Gospel is about. In addition a field task force is endeavouring to seek out those in the "pool", follow-up and teach the genuine enquirers, and form indigenous churches. Yet this force is much too small to meet personally everyone in the "pool", let alone teach them adequately.

This combination of prospect and urgency constitutes the challenge which faces us in North Africa. We have had to ask ourselves, "What would God have us do to meet it?" We have come to the conclusion that there are several concrete steps which He would have us take. Together they represent a considerable increase in effort and study focused upon church establishing in North

Africa. In fact they will probably require workers which we do not now have. Nevertheless we feel that the Lord would have us step out in faith and obedience. For we believe that God is working in North Africa. We believe also that the Holy Spirit, who alone can establish the church, is ready to do an even greater work. But this is contingent upon faith and obedience on our part. Hence we have felt that we must take these steps at this time.

In short, all of these considerations have led to the launching of Project **Church Development**. Although new, the project should not be thought of as a dramatic new approach. It is simply a further step in the direction in which we have been going, an effort to consolidate gains already made and to press on still further. Here are some of the immediate tasks we will undertake.

1. Communication. The project has begun publishing a Field bulletin for missionaries in order to facilitate discussion and the communication of information and ideas concerning church development in North Africa.
2. Development or improvement, and co-ordination of the programmes necessary to church development in North Africa, e.g. expanding and improving Bible teaching ministries, the training of indigenous leaders.
3. Writing, publishing and supplying Bible study materials for the above follow-up and Christian education programmes.
4. The study and research of social, cultural and religious factors influencing church development in North Africa, to provide background for Mission planning and the writing of the materials.
5. Conferences or seminars for furthering church development in North Africa. These would be given in key cities in North Africa for missionaries and Christian workers.

This project is a step of faith in

which you may share as the Lord leads you. You may help in realising the objective, which the Lord Himself has set before us, in any of the following ways.

Prayer is one way for a Christian to get vitally involved in God's work. For God works through His people as His instruments, using both their works for Him **and** their prayers. Will you pray with us?

You may give of your means as the Lord lays it on your heart. Obviously, Project Church Development needs funds to carry out the various aspects of its ministry mentioned above. You may share in this ministry through giving.

You may give yourself! It would appear that missionary work today is more and more being thought of as demanding the specialist—the linguist, the doctor or teacher, etc. However, in all our emphasis upon specialists let us not forget the paramount need for the one specialist which none of the others can ever replace. This is the church development specialist, the consecrated young theologian or pastor in particular. This category also includes the person with training in certain of the social science disciplines who creatively devotes his talents and specialised training full time to the task of church development. This is a gruelling discipline which taxes ones intellect and skill to the utmost. While the technical specialist may make an important contribution to church development in his spare time, he rarely has the time or training to penetrate or pursue church development in depth. For this he must depend upon the church development specialist. This is the person badly needed for the emerging church in North Africa. Are you the person with the necessary training to become a church development specialist? Could it be that God wants to use you? Why not pray about it today. But be ready to answer—He may call you.

**L**ET us give thanks and pray for a national Christian who is an itinerant missionary. Last month he visited us for a few days. He presented his permit to the authorities and we rejoiced to think of the freedom he had selling the Scriptures in the central area of this town. Shortly after this visit we heard that he had been imprisoned for four days for the same activity in a village near his home. It seems this particular ministry has come to an end for him. Pray for a clear revelation of his next assignment from God.

After a break of eight months we revisited the town of Marnia near the Moroccan border. This time we stayed overnight and the friendliness and hospitality we received was most encouraging. The homes we visited were those of students of the correspondence courses. Three of the homes were new to us yet we were given refreshments in all of these as well as in the two homes we revisited. On our next visit we hope to gather together a small group of young people for a Bible study. They themselves are best able to recognise those who are sincerely trying to follow the Lord. Pray that from the beginning some of them will take the initiative to encourage and help others as an expression of their new life in Christ.

*Bernard and Vivian Leat*  
**TLEMCCEN, ALGERIA**

**T**HE little room next door to the Student Centre has now become part of our property.

The papers were signed on 27th December and in no time Paul McCullough and Leary Hood had demolished the hall bookcase which formed the only barrier into the new room. The dirt and grime which greeted us have been cleared away and the newly-painted addition makes a useful office-cum-guestroom. From the desk, the person on duty has a vantage point from which to see all who enter and leave the Centre. The numbers are increasing.

During Mr. David Bentley-Taylor's visit on behalf of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, sixteen young people came to a tea conference. Interviews with professors at the University of Algiers made us realise that there could be great scope for Christians, fluent in French, who would be interested in teaching English in Algeria. Do you know anyone who would qualify? Lois Rowe and I have English classes on Monday evenings at the Centre. Pray for our influence on these girls.

*Ruth Stewart*  
**ALGIERS, ALGERIA**

**A**T present I am teaching fourteen girls. Half of this number are new contacts and two of these have come from a town which has never had a missionary. I have had some good personal chats already with several. English classes have begun, but Bible classes will not start until



after Ramadan (late December). Pray much for God's protection over all these classes.

Already there is cause for rejoicing. My residence was renewed

**T**HE Lord has provided Zaineb, a young school teacher with whom I read and study Arabic twice weekly. Since she speaks fluent French, we spend many happy hours talking together.

## *From the Prayer Letters*

without any difficulty. Also, while house-hunting, a young married woman, half Arab and half Spanish, asked me to teach her English. This week she told me that although she practices Islam she does not believe it and that she wants to know the Bible. Her first language is Spanish, so arrangements are being made for Spanish believers to meet her and her Arab husband. The Lord willing, this discussion should take place in several days' time.

While house-hunting I realised how many Spaniards and Jews there are in this city. There is no active witness among them. A Catholic cathedral stands in a prominent place in town, but the Spanish believers meet in a small inconspicuous hall. This group of believers numbers seven adults and five children. No believers have been added to their number during my three years here in Tetuan, but it is obvious that they love the Lord. Because I believe the Lord would have me have some kind of witness among the Jews and Spanish, as well as the Arabs, I have begun Spanish lessons. This means that I shall not proceed in Classical Arabic studies, except that in the New Year I shall do a review of those studies done in Arabic before furlough.

*Doris L. Evans*  
**TETUAN, MOROCCO**



Zaineb needs the Lord very much, so will you pray for her? She has in the past followed the B.C.C. courses but has lost interest within recent months.

I have been encouraged by several good contacts with neighbours. I was greeted at the bus stop one day by a lovely smile and "bonjour". A Tunisian lady wearing a sifsari began speaking to me in French. (Quite unusual, as most women are too shy and do not speak French). It was Wahida, who lives in the villa beside our town. Since then we have had some interesting conversations. After the fast of Ramadan is over, we plan to invite Wahida and several other women in the neighbourhood for a gathering in our home. Pray that God will use our friendships with these ladies to create an interest in spiritual things.

*Barbara Cotton*  
**SFAF, TUNISIA**

## “LITTLE DONKEYS”

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LOIS MORRISS

**I**T was only a little donkey but it became important because it was used for the Lord Jesus. Many women when trying to learn to read say to us, “I’m not clever like my children who go to school. I’m only a donkey!” So today I was reading the story with them of how Jesus used a donkey and as a result many people praised God. The Lord needs them in their homes, to reach the children, the husbands and the neighbours.

One whom the Lord has used is Mena who used to run the Carpet School. This has now discontinued but Mena has visited the girls in their homes. She was able to read with some as they have Bibles in their homes. She has also brought along her neighbour to our readings. One day when I visited Mena’s home she called in her husband for the reading and prayer. This was a real stand for her to make.

Life is not easy for these women who are married to Muslims. One of our nurses, who was married last Autumn, having had much freedom here, is now completely shut in. She is not allowed to visit the neighbours, or to go out alone. God is using a missionary nurse to visit and study the Bible with her.

The Lord needs our national nurses in different corners. Malika, in the government hospital, is widely known as a Christian. One lady who has never been here, said grudgingly that her child was being well looked after by the Christian nurse. Malika was called in by the authorities today and questioned as to why she was a Christian, how she became one and who her friends were. She firmly told them that she had been a Christian for years. She was able to assure them that she had no political interests. It was a shock for her but she is trusting the Lord for her future and her passport is in order.

God needs folk ready to preach a sermon, others to lead Bible studies, and some to chat over the cooking pots! Our Habiba was surprised to find that there was divorce in England. I explained that the person we were talking about was not a Christian. “But her brother is a Christian. It must be hard for him living with non-Christians.” I explained that often it was as hard as in this country, and I named a number of our guests whom she has known well as keen Christians, who are the only Christians at home or come from divided homes. This led on to a profitable discussion on Christianity, around the meal table.

A young English girl was rushed into Hope House for help the other day. She had been persuaded to try Hasheesh and she was

already on drugs for epilepsy. She was terrified and so while she lay in hospital I sat and talked to her. Later there were several other opportunities to talk to her of God's willingness to help her. Then her husband came to collect her and he listened for a while.

The Lord still needs the hospital and so we are looking at plans for the extension of the maternity ward. There have been several converted lately through being in the hospital. The English nurse who helps us in the theatre accepted Christ while she was in bed with hepatitis. A Muslim is now trying to persuade her to marry him, so please pray for her.

An older American lady was in hospital for a while and was impressed by the kindness in nursing and friendship. We took her dog and have looked after him as she cannot now care for him. Through visiting later in her home she was saved.

"Why don't you preach any more on the wards?" asked a young Moroccan woman. It was explained that this was against the law but that if anyone wished to ask questions then that was different. "Oh, yes but I want to hear." So the nurse sat down several evenings and told the Christmas story and several listened. The young woman who asked the question now comes to the Bible study circle.

Only "donkeys"—but useful to the Lord!

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## NETHERLANDS COMMITTEE

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**I**N April of 1967 a committee was formed in Holland to help the North Africa Mission with its very difficult work in North Africa and other Arabic-speaking countries. Part of the Mission's work is done by the Radio School of the Bible, and the Dutch Committee decided to help in this work by supporting Mr. Tran Thuyen, who works at the R.S.B., and his family. We sent a letter, together with a folder, to various churches and individuals, telling them about the work and asking whether they were able and willing to help us in it by their prayers and practical support.

Up to now, the number of interested people who send us regular gifts and who pray for this

branch of the Lord's work is about 275. Every month these receive the news-letter of the R.S.B. in Marseilles. We are pleased to say that this number is steadily increasing.

Since April 1967 we have been able to send to the Headquarters in London substantial financial help for the support of Mr. Thuyen. We have also had opportunities to show interested friends some slides and to tell them about this wonderful work of our Master.

We give thanks to God, who has enabled us to do this work, and we pray that it may increase, that the Lord will bless it abundantly, and that many in North Africa will hear the voice of the Master. A. F. M. de JONG

## *First Words*

DINNY VIOHANOFF

**21st November 1968.** What a delight! I have just spoken about the Lord in Arabic for the first time. When I went to the roof to get the dry laundry from the lines, there was Delila, Susan's nine year old friend. She wanted Susan, of course, but when she learned that Susan was sleeping, she stayed around to talk to me.

It is the first day of Ramadan, the month during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Nothing must be swallowed. Saliva must be spit out. Even smoking is forbidden. But the work-a-day world goes on as usual. The nights are spent in cooking and eating. Delila asked if we had anything like the fast in America. I clumsily explained that Jesus Christ was enough and that we didn't need to fast. Delila asked "Who?" My mind was whirling. She had never heard His name before. The only words about the Lord in Arabic I could recall came from a children's chorus I had been learning over the past few weeks. I told her that Christ was the Saviour of all men, and that He had come to save us from the power of Satan.

Later working in the solitude of a messy kitchen I was still mulling over the conversation. I realised I had probably led her to think that **all** Americans believe in Christ,—if she had understood me at all, and that's a big "if". Then I began to wonder when I would be able to talk to her again. Would she ever open her heart to the Lord? Then I thought of how few here actually receive Him, and I began to be really anxious. But at that point I was graciously reminded that God has sent us here to be faithful to Him every day, not to worry about what He is or is not going to do in the future. It is He who will make His Word bear fruit. And it is my part to remain in fellowship with Him, ready to speak or not to speak as suits the occasion. This opportunity had come so casually; there would be others.

**25th November 1968.** This morning, Laloosha, our helper in the house, who is seven months pregnant, said to me, "Oh how thirsty I am. How I wish I could take a drink. How will I ever make it through the day." It had seemed obvious to me that the fast was a difficult time, rough on everybody. But this was the first time I had ever heard someone express a personal need so poignantly. It is even sadder to realise that Muslim religious law teaches that pregnant women are permitted to break the fast, but Laloosha doesn't know that. Laloosha would never dare to break the fast. "I am afraid," she said, gesturing toward the heaven where her stern Allah lives.

Like Delilah she asked if we fasted like that in America. This time I tried to explain that our family believed that Jesus died and rose again, and no other work was necessary to gain entrance to heaven. I couldn't remember the word for believe at first. Then I found it, but later discovered I should have used a different word. Again I am comforted that it is God doing the work in her heart, not me. His work isn't doomed because we fail.

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## *In Weakness*

PAUL AND BEVERLEY MCCULLOUGH

**I**N recent days it has become obvious that Satan has been working to stop the growth of the budding church here in the city of Algiers. The church is not large numerically. There are only fourteen members; eight missionaries and six nationals. But often around forty are in attendance at the Sunday afternoon worship services. Most of these are young people but there are several older, mature Christians who provide stability and leadership for the group.

At the beginning of the year the police began questioning some who are real, born-again Christians. One was told, "It is not you that we are concerned about but you may influence other young people to follow this way." Another was told that he would be watched and if he persisted in attending church services he would be killed. He has not returned since.

About a week after the questioning began the main leader in the Church and his wife became ill. Her condition worsened and she died a week later. At the time of her death he was too ill

to make any funeral arrangements. Relatives took her body and she had a Muslim burial. He recovered from his pneumonia but now he has tuberculosis and so is laid aside for several months of recovery.

As far as we know, at present in this country of twelve million people, there is only one Christian Algerian couple who worships openly with other believers. They are far away in a very small town.

This is not the first time that Satan has disrupted God's work here. In talking to an experienced missionary we discovered that in times past there have been groups of believers such as exist today and either wars, sickness or death have effectively arrested their growth into local indigenous churches. We here feel helpless at such times yet our Lord is not helpless and He has said that He will build His church.

Will you pray that He will strengthen the weak and encourage the feeble here in Algiers at this time? They are so few and needy.

“But the servants which drew the water knew.” JOHN 2:9

“For He Himself knew what He would do.” JOHN 6:6.

**H**OW does our Lord use resources committed to Him? He transforms; He multiplies; He administers.

*The Lord is central.* It would have been useless for the boy to have given his loaves and fishes to the disciples much less to the crowd. He gave them to the Lord; it was the Lord who entrusted them to the disciples and told them how to distribute them.

The gifts which you gave to the Lord last year were used carefully and prayerfully and, we believe, under His guidance. The figures below show how. All the missionaries received full allowances, so their modest needs were met. In addition we sent £1,516 to the R.S.B. and literature work, and £1,730 to the hospital and medical work. This latter included the purchase of the minibus, such a valuable help at the Tulloch Memorial Hospital. The increase in giving, which offset the effect of devaluation was continued last year. We received gifts in generously large amounts and hundreds of smaller gifts, little loaves and fishes which the Lord blessed and multiplied.

*You can't tabulate results.* Don't expect to spend X pounds for a calculable return of Y souls saved. God doesn't work that way. The witness of an act of kindness, the witness of love in a loveless land, of answered prayer, of clear divine guidance, of deliverance in trouble—none of these can be calculated in dollars or sterling, but Muslims are seeing these things in the daily lives of the Lord's servants. The water is being turned into wine.

And the loaves are being multiplied too. In ones and twos and here and there in small groups there are believers scattered over the land. One day we shall be astonished by the number of those redeemed out of North Africa.

A. Douglas Pilcher.

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£		£
Donations (including missionaries' support) ...	25,157	Missionaries' allowances ...	15,111
Legacies ...	4,576	Missionaries' work and expenses ...	9,162
Designated Gifts:		Hospital and Medical Work:	
Missionaries' work and expenses ...	382	General Expenses ...	330
Hospital and Medical Work:		Minibus project ...	1,400
General Expenses ...	299	Literature and Radio Work	1,561
Minibus project ...	1,400	Home Payments:	
Literature and Radio Work	1,521	Magazine ...	659
		Deputation ...	650
		London Office expenses	5,166
	<u>£33,335</u>		<u>£34,039</u>

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.

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## TRAN THUYEN'S DEPUTATION

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**Y**ou have to be in London again to feel how much you are under its charm. As I was sitting on the upper deck of a London bus one day, happy memories of old flooded back to my mind and I caught myself saying, "Really London is unique."

But London has changed tremendously, so much so that I even lost my way in Tottenham Court Road which was a part of London which I knew best in my student days. One day when the Rev. Robert Brown and I came out of an Underground Station into Baker Street on our way to a meeting at the London Bible College I was very much surprised because Baker Street has changed out of recognition. I am sure that if Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson came back they would be frightened by the traffic . . .

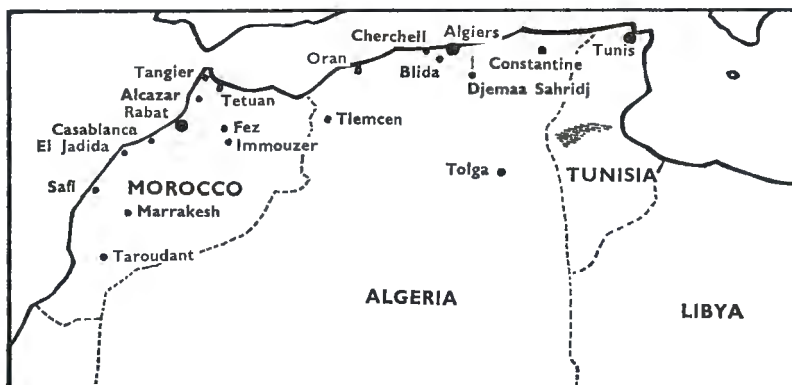
We had a most interesting meeting at the London Bible College where I was given over an hour to speak in detail to a group of interested students about our Bible Correspondence Course ministry, followed by a lively question period. One of the things I could tell them out of my personal experience was that they should never use a course until it has been revised to meet the specific needs of a particular mission field.

The meeting at the Stock Exchange in London was really instructive. I was thoroughly impressed by the fact that people engaged in this particular and mysterious (to us from outside) business, could set aside a few precious moments of their hectic day to listen to the word of God and to take an interest in spiritual things.

My deputation tour during the whole month of March, not only in London but throughout England, has brought me rich blessings. Thanks to the Lord, opportunities were given me to visit various churches, Christian groups, Bible schools, getting into contact with Christians of many denominations from Brethren to the Church of England.

I had the privilege and the joy to give my testimony, bring messages, give lectures, conduct worship services and address youth meetings. Speaking about youth I shall never forget the wonderful time we had together at the "Koinonia" at the Holy Trinity Church of Manchester during which a group of about two hundred students, mostly from Manchester University, were gathered together after the evening service. They interviewed me, thus enabling me to speak of what the Lord has done for me in the past and what He is doing now through me in the work of the Radio School of the Bible. Slides of the North African mission fields and of our work in Marseilles had been shown and this gave rise to much interest.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many friends for their gracious hospitality. I must confess that I came to England in "weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling" — at least as much as the apostle Paul when he was with the Corinthians. Preaching in a foreign language is a most dreadful experience for anyone but I had put my trust in the Lord: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts", and He undertook in everything.



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