

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

A THIRSTY LAND

The Quarterly Magazine of the Algiers Mission Band

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“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” Rev. 5. 12.

As witnesses for Christ, what is our one aim, what is the heart of our message, the one indispensable Truth which we must press home?

What is our distinctive, supreme, impelling message to the non-Christian world? Is it not expressed in the words of John the Baptist, that harbinger of a new dispensation to Israel—the Israel with which Islam has so much in common? That voice crying in the wilderness had one message: “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” The Gospel for the Moslem and for the non-Christian world is contained in that one short sentence. . . . When men speak of redeeming the old order of society or transforming life from sordidness into sainthood *without the Cross*, they follow a forlorn hope. We may well be optimists when we see God’s purpose of grace for the world being accomplished. When we face new eras and new opportunities. But when John came preaching repentance, the fullness of time was also at hand. . . . There had been much preparation. There was great expectancy. There was deep despair of the old order. But John ushered in the new epoch by proclaiming a new Redemption: “Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.” It is a redemption of the old order that we desire, but it must be redemption by the Blood. The Cross of Christ is the only hope of the World.

DR. S. M. ZWEMER (from “The Glory of the Cross”).

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

In these crucial days we rejoice to know that our friends in Algeria are passing on “that supreme impelling message,” of the Cross of Christ. We may be sure that they are “redeeming the time,” for they realise, even more clearly than we can, the value of their opportunity for unhindered witness to the Truth as it is in Jesus.

This News Letter may be out later than usual. I write in mid-December only, as I have been hoping for more news. Our newspapers tell us of the removal of General Weygand from North Africa and we have as yet no knowledge of what effect this has had, or will have, on conditions in Algeria. It is very difficult for our workers to write often and much cannot be said.

Since the last “Thirsty Land” was pub-

lished I have had a post card from Miss Grautoff (Miliana) telling the good news of rather more freedom for Miss Russell and herself. Miss G. says: “It is good to know we can all meet in prayer. On November 14th we are having a ‘Quiet Day,’ sharing a Bible message that Mr. Buckenham has sent round to the different Stations. Now the Moslem Fast is over, but the colder weather is beginning, and is causing anxiety to the poor who cannot buy clothes or wraps. We enjoy walks occasionally now, outside the town. Autumn foliage is beautiful. It is a joy, after being shut in the town all the summer. To-day I have been very busy helping many who came to see me—Old H., and blind Y. and her children, need our prayers. There is a law now forbidding the sale of alcohol to Moslems. I am so glad, it should help many sad homes.”

Little two-year-old Sheila Thomson was transplanted, in October, to the Heavenly Garden. We shall remember her father and mother in their sorrow. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson were in Setif, continuing their work, as were Miss Farmer and Miss Layte, when we last heard. Miss Nash (Algiers) carried on a Girls' Class in French, and a Women's Meeting, until the hot weather. She was not sure whether to start these again after the Fast, or not. We need to ask for God's guidance for the workers in every step of their difficult way.

Miss Wood, and the Stalleys with their baby Elizabeth, are at Tlemcen, and we have heard nothing more about the house, or part of it, being taken over for evacuees. The Arabs call the baby "Freeha," which means "wee joy," and a joy she is to all, including her mother and father! They are able to go on quietly with their witness for Christ, and there are four young men who go regularly to Mr. Stalley for teaching. The women's and girls' Classes have fallen off a bit which is not surprising under present conditions.

Mr. Buckenham writes from Blida that their Arab Classes and Meetings are going on well and also the Sunday afternoon Fellowship for Arabs and Europeans. Mr. B. also says, that since the summer heat has passed they have been keeping well. He adds, "We learn patience at such times as these, and it has been wonderful to observe God's providing for us throughout the prolonged time of difficulty."

Mlle. Butticaz had returned to Bou Saada alone, but had a great welcome back. She was gradually beginning to visit and to have small classes.

Miss Perkin gives various items of news from Headquarters. They have been able to show sympathy and hospitality to various refugees; typhoid fever had brought sorrow into the homes of some of these. The matter of food and clothing is clearly a problem, specially for the poorer Arabs. Miss P. writes that the Governor had arranged for Moslems to get ample semolina and flour and extra rations of oil, sugar, and meat and additional paraffin during the Fast—i.e., the month of Ramthan. Clothing is almost impossible to buy, evidently, and sewing cotton also. Miss P. says, "We are

satisfied that we can do without new clothes—we are poorly clad, but neat! But how long will the neatness last when we cease to be able to mend or darn? I have constant pleas for cotton and I dole out wee bits. Many of the Arab garments just tear away when mended and patched. Sacking is in great demand, but sacks are costly."

In our last News Letter the wedding of a Christian Arab couple was mentioned. Miss Perkin writes that F. (a native Christian girl helper at Dar Naama) had been to visit the bride. She found her thrilled at having a home of her own, and they both seem to be very happy. The two girls evidently had a little service together and sang many hymns.

Miss Perkin also tells of the holding of the Inter Mission Prayer Meeting at Dar Naama. Owing to restriction of movement some usually present were not there, but there were quite a good number and encouraging items of news about their work. were given by one and another for prayer fellowship.

Many years ago Miss McIlroy took a waif of the Algiers streets to the Girls' Home—Les Aiglons (American Mission) and there she was loved, trained, and led to Christ. Later on Mahanie married a Kabyle evangelist and lived a shining and consistent Christian life. Now while still young, with her boys still of school age, she has gone into Christ's presence. In all the district where she lived this native woman was much loved and was deeply respected by the Moslems before whom she witnessed as a Christian. Her death has made a deep impression and the natives speak of her as having been a mother to them all. So much grew from that venture of faith made years ago!

A very old friend of the A.M.B., Miss Kate Smith (N.A.M.) has just passed on. A valiant warrior who spent a lifetime of service for Christ and the Moslems of Kabylia! How many, who first heard of Christ through this loving intrepid messenger, will greet her in the presence of the Lord, we shall know some day—they will surely not be few!

I want, in this New Year letter, to send a special greeting to our dear friends in America. Members of the Algerian Mission

Band of America, represented by Mrs. Bryner, Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Goodrich, who have kept their love and interest strong through the thirty and more years. that they have known the A.M.B. Miss E. May and her sister, Miss L. May, who have been such wonderful friends to us in our time of need, and our many Canadian prayer helpers who have shown us so much sympathy and help. In this time of our common trial our hearts go out to you all in ever-deepening friendship and gratitude.

On the financial side we praise God for the channel still kept open for sending supplies, up to the time of writing this. Let us praise God, and ask for continuance of this facility. Our friends will remember that it is quite impossible to send money to

individual missionaries. Mr. Buckenham (Treasurer) has managed to send a copy of the Field balance sheet, which we publish in this News Sheet. I am not, this year, enclosing a renewal form for subscriptions for the "Thirsty Land." This News Letter can hardly be called a magazine, in its attenuated form ! but if those who usually subscribed 1s. 6d. care to send this amount it will be a great help towards printing and postage—the continued sending of the News Letter to be considered, please, as an acknowledgment !

May the God of Hope fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing, as we enter this New Year !

Yours in His Service,
MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Field Statement of Accounts for the Year ended June 30th, 1941

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	Francs	Francs	Francs
By Balance in Bank, July 1st, 1940 ...	689.74		
" Cash in Hand... ..	9211.95		
			9901.69
<i>General Fund :—</i>			
" Remittances from Home Office, £960	222724.90		
" Amounts from Society Dar Naama			
Funds	91466.90		
" Donations from America	22998.65*		
" Other Donations	1700.00		
" Part Allowances American Consulate	2072.00†		
			340962.45
<i>Appropriated Funds :—</i>			
" Amounts from Society Dar Naama			
Funds	12928.35		
" Sales of Literature	2141.15		
			15069.50
			<u>Francs 365933.64</u>
<i>General Fund :—</i>			
To Missionaries' Allowances		267916.80	
" Rents, Taxes, and Repairs		35391.35	
" Travelling		4252.75	
" Postage and Stationery		822.40	
" Various Mission Expenses		5838.65	
" Headquarters' Expenses		8950.95	
			323172.90
<i>Appropriated Funds :—</i>			
" Colportage		1473.75	
" Upkeep of Dar Naama		12341.35	
" Stations		4079.15	
			17894.25
" Balance in Bank, June 30		103.99	
" Cash in hand		24762.50	
			<u>Francs 24866.49</u>
			<u>Francs 365933.64</u>
Balances of separate Funds, June 30, 1941 :			
	Francs	Francs	
General		17789.55	
Appropriated :			
Literature Production	1021.82		
Colportage... ..	672.72		
Placing Scriptures	798.90		
Stations (Tlemcen work)	4583.50		
			7076.94
			<u>Francs 24866.49</u>
Examined and found correct (Signed) HENRY R. TURNER, El Biar			

* Additional sums amounting to Francs 27723.45 have been sent direct to workers in compliance with American Government requirements consequent on the War.

† The complete amount advanced to British members of the Band by the American Consulate on behalf of the British Government was Francs 61714.50.

Treasurer : H. W. BUCKENHAM,
Oulad Sultane, Blida, Algeria.