

# A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

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**All the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.** Ex. 10.23.

**A light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.** 2 Peter 1.19.

**I Jesus . . . . am the bright and morning star.** Rev. 22.16.

## The Morning Star.

It hangs in the dawn like a great globe of silver fire. Of all the images of Christ it seems the one that is almost more than an image, it is so utterly like Him in its pure glory. And it sets one's heart crying for the promise, "I will give him the morning star"—the revelation of Himself to the watching ones which can come to no others, and can never be repeated when once The Sun of Righteousness has arisen on all men—a revelation that through all the ages past and to come, is only possible to us who are living in the last watches of the night.

"Until the . . . daystar arise in your hearts"—that has been lit up these last days with a sense of God's unfolding. The inner revelation of the coming Jesus that must come before the outward, is the rising of the Morning Star in us, and it is as absolutely as new a thing as when the morning star flashes up behind the dark ridge of distant mountains, poising for an instant like a flame kindled on the crest, then soaring slowly upward.

To them that look for Him He will arise as the Morning Star even before the daybreak dawns. Well for us if our ears are so attent that through all that presses around us His "Surely I come quickly," echoes the clearest, and our lips make answer to the call which gathers into itself the uttermost supply of all the needs of earth: "Even so come Lord Jesus."

I. L. TROTTER.

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

I am writing this letter early in June, and it is impossible to say what the state of affairs may be, in Algeria, by the time you receive it. But, praise God, His light never ceases to shine for His children, however dark their "place" may be, and through them to others in the darkness.

The news from the Field, up to date is, on the whole, good. Work goes forward in the various stations, and faithful friends out there remain true and their friendship is a cheer to our comrades who are far from their own land. With the coming of Sum-

mer, food conditions seem to have improved. Vegetables and fruit are in abundance though flour has been hard to obtain. There seems to be a real concern felt for the native population and a better distribution of food, which is comforting.

As far as is possible I will quote from letters received from Algeria, as this seems to bring us nearer to our friends out there and to their work.

From the mountain station of Miliana, Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell have written. It is their first spring there after so many in the southern desert. They could not

get a permit this year, but visited the proprietor of their house in Ghardaia who was staying in a town near by. They saw his wife and little niece. Miss Grautoff writes : "The little southern girl remembers the hymns. They may come up to visit us. I trust God may open the way South next Autumn. We will pray and study, and we will praise God that we were able to tramp off and visit friends within walking distance. Spring is here in all its beauty. You can picture us sitting on the roadside talking to the little goat-herd children, or called into some country house or hut to see a sick one.

I will tell you of a walk we took to visit a cripple girl who lives in a gourbi on the mountainside. The week before it had been under thick snow, but as we walked almond trees were out, and many little field-flowers were carpeting the ground under the limes—and the sunshine and cloud were causing an ever changing panorama of beauty over the mountains. B. was lying on the hard ground with her poor imbecile brother lying moaning near her, and the little orphan cousins sitting with her. Just about ten days before, their father had gone into the town to buy oil. A dispute occurred and he was so terribly injured that he died soon after. They said as usual, "God decreed it," but all seemed such tragedy—uncontrolled passion—and now these five little orphans left. They are such dear children. We thank God that we are able to take the Message of Hope in Christ into homes like this.

My window has some new texts in it and we pray that their message may be blessed to readers. The sick woman in House Beautiful is very suffering. There is also a poor old couple who need our prayers, both blind, and one of them bedridden, and in pain and want, but they love to be read to from the Gospel. Y and her two boys are well. The husband has work, but I am troubled about him.

Our children are learning to sing French hymns. They read well but the meaning has to be very clearly explained. We still have morning Prayers on certain days with the women who come to visit us. The industrial side of things has come to a full stop. No materials and no surplus stock!

It was good to be able to get up to Dar Naama (for committees, etc.). We had a nice day together of prayer and quiet."

Miss Perkin writes : "Blida is far away now, for the Buckenham's are not allowed to use their car." This must make it difficult for Mr. Buckenham as treasurer, with business in Algiers, for there are long waiting times for places in buses. A letter from him, says : "Now for some items of news about the work—first of all about the children. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials, which meant the impossibility of recommencing industrial, there was for a time, a falling off in numbers, but there has been a picking up again so that now quite a large number attend. The boys have also just 'revived' again. The women's meetings have been steady throughout, despite difficulty, and always there has been the nucleus of the faithful few. At our Sunday afternoon fellowship we have had the same families whom you know about, and of late some enthusiastic additions. Our times together have been unfaillingly inspiring.

One Sunday we had the pleasure and privilege of having Monsieur Rolland with us. The hymn book, 'Sur les Ailes de la Foi,' a new edition with some added translations of M. Saillens is greatly loved. I ought to have mentioned that the visiting here, which as you know, is perhaps the most important part of all, is easier than it had for a time been. Despite the Mouloud the faithful were here yesterday for the Friday meeting, and it was a blessed one."

From Mlle Buticaz : "We went, ten days ago, to visit the hamlet of R. I left twenty-five tracts there and five Gospels, and paid seven visits. Just now some of the people from this village have come to ask for remedies and more literature. There are those among them who are very open-hearted towards the Gospel. Here at Bou Saada work goes on regularly. On Sunday I had a good time at the Hospital with H. of Chercelle. We have had a dreadful epidemic of measles and whooping-cough."

During February, Mlle Buticaz was at Tolga with Mme Lull and her two little children, while Monsieur Lull went on a colportage tour in the South. He writes :

"I have visited seventeen or eighteen villages in four days, and have done about 107 miles on camel or mule back, or on foot. Six of these villages we have never before visited. I sold 350 books, above all, Gospels. Everywhere I had good opportunities of reading God's Word and talking with groups of men. I praise God for His guidance, and for His help and blessing during my journey. Praise God also for the help given by Mlle Buticaz during her stay here, and also for the boys who come regularly in good numbers. Pray also for the young men who have been 'difficult' in our last few meetings." Monsieur and Mme Lull and their children have gone to Batna, for the great heat, as they did last year. They are able to work there and will value our prayers as they stay for some months in this centre.

From Setif comes news of work going on steadily. Children come regularly, but an epidemic of typhoid was hindering visiting. The news of little Sheila Thompson is not very good. She is delicate and her health is causing anxiety to her parents who will value prayer for her."

Mlle Gayral writes: "Some days ago I had great joy in a reply given to me by an Arab girl. I had read and explained the story of the woman at the well. I then said, 'Have you understood? If not, I will explain further to you.' The girl I have mentioned answered at once: 'Oh yes, we have understood. In any case we have understood better than that woman at the well who did not realise that it was the Son of God who spoke with her.' It was a wonderful reply from a Moslem woman.

Oh, how one longs to see THIS thought firmly planted in all those to whom one speaks. But alas, how slow are souls to comprehend, and how clever the enemy is in using the smallest things to turn them back. How we need to watch and pray lest he should gain the advantage over them. Do not forget Mostaganem and please pray for that young girl."

From Algiers, Miss Perkin writes that Mr. and Mrs. Stalley have come up from Tlemcen so that Mrs. Stalley may have the care she needs just now. Let us remember her and also Miss Wood who is remaining in Tlemcen. There had been good times

there both with girls' classes and on the young men's side. One man desired baptism but at the last, for some reason, this was deferred.

Meetings have been held at Dar Naama with other missionary friends, and native visitors have been welcomed. Monsieur Millon tells of new contacts made and mentions two souls, an Israelite and a Moslem, who are very near the Kingdom.

On the financial side it has been possible to send out a regular sum monthly, for which we have a Government permit. This money has safely reached Mr. Buckenham and he has been able to divide it among the workers. God has also provided some additional and needed help on the Field, in His own wonderful way now that some other channels have been closed. A friend in America sent most generous and loving gifts in time of need.

This month I have not been able to send the usual sum, leave having been withheld by the French authorities. We hope, however, that this may be a temporary matter. To all who have so faithfully remembered us by prayer and by gifts we send our loving and grateful thanks.

Many letters of sympathy have come from friends overseas, united with us in love and prayer in these dreadful days of war, more than ever before. To those who have so kindly asked about my sister's health, may I say, that there is some real progress, thank God! I am hoping to return home early in July.

Many of the friends on our lists have changed their addresses, but though so much has changed and is uncertain, yet our Lord is "the same." May it indeed be "that through all that presses around us. His 'Surely I come quickly' echoes the clearest."

Yours in His Service,

MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

**Late News.**— Since going to press word has come by cable from Algiers of God's gift to Mr. and Mrs. Stalley of a baby daughter—Elizabeth Johnston. Let us pray for God's richest blessing on this little life begun at such a stormy moment.

M. H. R.