

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

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The Quarterly Magazine of the Algiers Mission Band

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By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed
about seven days. *Heb. 11. 30.*

This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
1 John 5. 4.

Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith *Heb. 12. 2.*

Joshua 6. 15.

It must have been in utter exhaustion that the shout of victory was given. An earthly leader would have taken his troops up to their first battle as fresh and bright in body and spirit as could be. God on the other hand drained out every vestige of human energy by that silent monotonous march day after day, repeated on this seventh day seven times, till the shout of faith must have come out of the very depth of weariness.

I. L. TROTTER.

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

News from the Field is scarce and much obviously remains unsaid. But the steady tramp of feet, the patient continuance, the glad acceptance of God's will echo through all letters that come.

Things are not easy and seem to be growing more difficult. Movements are restricted, in some districts more than in others. Some workers have obtained leave of absence for a month from the place where they live, among them Miss Farmer and Miss Layte and the Thomsons. The latter were staying at Dar Naama, Miss Layte also, while Miss Farmer—who had twice been stung by a scorpion but had evidently recovered—was in the mountains above Blida with Mlle. Buticaz and the Lulls, for a little holiday.

M. Lull went to Batna to find rooms for himself and his wife and children for the summer months, but was unable to find

any, so before going to the mountains they were at Dar Naama. In spite of the fact that Miss Ridley and Miss Perkin are restricted in their movements—probably to the village of El Biar—(but this is not clear), Miss Perkin writes so cheerfully and says that they are grateful to the French authorities for their courtesy.

The Stalleys and their baby daughter, who seems to be getting on well, were also at Dar Naama and news had come through* that the Mission House at Tlemcen was requisitioned temporarily by the authorities. Mr. Stalley had gone to Tlemcen to see about things, and it was thought that Miss Wood, who was in charge there, might be returning to Algiers with him. They were expecting to have the dedication Service for little Elizabeth Stalley very shortly, at Dar Naama.

Miss Perkin wrote that a young Miliana Arab—a famine orphan, sent by Miss

Grautoff to the Boys' Home (American), some years ago, was about to be married to a girl from the Girls' Home. The ceremony was to take place at Dar Naama, and Miss Perkin says: "It is sad that Miss Grautoff cannot be here for the wedding."

Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell are not allowed to leave Miliana and seem to be restricted to the town itself. In the heat of summer and early autumn this is very trying physically, and to be shut away from fellowship with friends and fellow missionaries is a real deprivation.

Miss Grautoff writes: "There are many needing prayer but do remember us all, this autumn. We hope it may be God's Will for us to live on quietly here. At present we are trying to change the daily routine and so get a little rest. . . . It is over a month now since we have had a walk outside this little town, but God is and will be our strength." Miss Grautoff writes of a Christian couple who are in great need of prayer. In what she writes we can sense her yearning over these babes in Christ, that they may be kept from falling and be led out into a fuller life in Christ. The woman, whom Miss Grautoff calls "Faith," she has loved and taught since she was a child. The account of the two and their need for prayer will be found at the end of this letter.

Monsieur and Mme. Millon, working chiefly among students in Algiers, were not taking any holiday and had written to Miss Perkin, who was unable to go as far as Algiers to see them: "We are well, and continue to seize the opportunities God gives to us of witnessing for Him."

Mr. Buckenham wrote not long ago, seemingly finding it difficult to get to Algiers for necessary business. They are evidently unable to leave Blida this summer, but he says: "All is in God's Hand and He has been so wonderful all these months that we ought to give no place to a moment's doubt. Daily we experience Rom. 8. 28. . . . It is very hot here now, but it is wonderful how one can get adapted to circumstances, especially when God's Will is 'all in all.'"

Georges Nicoud had had an operation and was getting on, but I gather that his recovery will be slow.

It was with deep thankfulness that I received word during July that I could once more send money out, as for two months it had not been possible. It was necessary, however, to send, at once, a sum for three months ahead as well as for those behind. As a rule we receive our gifts only as needed to send out month by month, and could not send out "in advance." But our Father's lovingkindness had foreseen our need and there was sufficient to send the specified sum. I had a letter from Mr. Buckenham (treasurer) saying that he had received the money safely and he added: "It is just wonderful is it not, to observe God's ways and means. 'His way is in great waters and His footsteps are not known.'"

We publish our Home Balance Sheet in this number, and are most grateful to Mr. Neville Russell for preparing it and for auditing our accounts. We have been unable to send money for any "special" fund or to ear-mark for any individual. I have sent a sum monthly to be divided by the treasurer among all, and used as is deemed best on the spot.

Friends have written asking that gifts might be sent to certain people, but they will realise that this is, for the present, out of the question. We cannot, of course, publish a Field Balance Sheet this year as one cannot be sent.

Uncertainty as to the future, weariness, restriction of movement, scanty news; these are part of the "all things" for our friends in Algeria. But "in faith" they steadfastly walk around their Jericho, as good soldiers and messengers of Jesus Christ. It may be that the long day is drawing to its close and that soon the glorious shout of final victory over Satan's power will be heard. Meanwhile, united in prayer and love with these our fellow-workers may we "run with patience . . . looking unto Jesus."

Yours in His Service,

MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

**LATER NEWS tells that Mr. and Mrs. Stalley hoped to return to their Station on Sept. 9th. Miss Wood to stay on with them. Rooms (those used for Classes) required by Authorities. Setif workers uncertain as to return to their station.—M.H.R.*

“ Pray for us ”

It was just after Faith's second boy was born that they decided to build a room on the piece of ground attached to her mother's house. The room was ready and the day of entrance planned, when a serious quarrel took place between the husband and wife. We shall probably never know the true cause of the dispute, but Faith, whose eyes had for long been weak, received a violent blow on or near her one good eye and after some days of intense suffering we knew that the sight had gone and she settled down, with heart embittered, to a life of darkness. Yes, the husband suffers, but he is mainly sorry for himself to be burdened with a blind wife. Faith is wonderful—she tries to mend the clothes, does her washing and is a handy little cook, for she seems to have developed another sense and has a place for everything. Still, it is a pathetic sight to see her with two little ones groping her way up the road, four-years-old leading his mother.

At times one forgets the sorrow as we laugh together over the merry ways of the little lads, and one hears little David say: “Look Mother at this.” Her memory stands her in good stead now and when the husband returns from his work in another town (he is an intelligent hard-working man), we have a Christian meeting and one hears their voices blending in the hymns they know so well. Little El Hadi is already learning to say a prayer after his father. Let us pray for loving forethought and self control on the one side, and for courage and true forgiveness on the other.

There is the promise—“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” Both these erring souls have come, so He will bring them through. At present it is God's will for us to stand alongside them, but for how long will this be? Clouds are lowering, and our hearts ache as we think of these and others who are so dear to us.

M. D. G.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND HOME OFFICE ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended June 30th, 1941

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash at Bank and in Hand,						
1st July, 1940				615	4	4
„ Subscriptions, Donations and Designated Gifts				581	2	8
„ Legacies received during the year, viz.:						
The late Miss Kemp	5,000	0	0			
The late Miss Cross	10	0	0			
The late Mr. Filby	36	10	0			
				5,046	10	0
„ Dividends and Interest...				109	3	7
				£6,352	0	7

INVESTMENTS HELD ON BEHALF OF THE BAND.

£	200 Anglo-Argentine Tramways 4 per cent Debenture Stock.
	20 Industrial and General Trust Stock.
	360 Investment Trust Corporation Deferred Stock.
	528 War Loan 3½ per cent.
	1,050 Conversion 5 per cent 1944/64.

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Magazine and Book Account	25	17	7			
Less Receipts	24	6	1			
				1	11	6
„ Stationery, Postages and General Expenses					34	11
„ Remittances to Field					960	0
„ Cash at Bank and in hand, 30th June, 1941				5,355	18	1
				£6,352	0	7

I have examined the foregoing Accounts with the Books and Vouchers and have found them to be correct. I have also verified the Investments.

C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.
(Incorporated Accountant.)

11, Poultry, E.C.2.
11th August, 1941.