

No. 82 Autumn, 1947

Algiers Mission Band

FOUNDED IN 1888 BY I. LILIAS TROTTER.

HEADQUARTERS: DAR NAAMA, EL BIAR, ALGIERS.

President: MISS S. E. PERKIN.

General Secretary and Treasurer: MR. H. W. BUCKENHAM,

Dar el Ain, Route de Chrea, Blida, Algeria.

Corresponding Secretary and Hostess at Dar Naama: MISS V. WOOD.

Secretary in Great Britain: THE REV. HAROLD W. STALLEY.

Home Office: Campfield, Great Barton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

LOCATION OF WORKERS. AUTUMN, 1947.

DAR NAAMA, El Biar.

Headquarters.

1906. Miss S. E. Perkin.

1920. Miss V. Wood.

1919 & 1922.

M. & MME. P. NICOUD.

BLIDA.

1920. Mr. & Mrs.

H. W. BUCKENHAM.

1946. MISS J. MUNRO

(Short service).

BOU SAADA.

1919. MLLE. A. BUTTICAZ.

1946. MLLE. CHOLLET.

TOUGGOURT.

1930. Miss I. K. Nash.

MILIANA.

1907. MISS M. D. GRAUTOFF.

1929. Miss P. M. Russell.

1947. MISS E. CHANTLER

(Short service).

TLEMCEN.

1914. MISS A. M. FARMER.

1947. MISS E. CLARK.

TOLGA.

1928 & 1937.

M. & MME. S. LULL.

Awaiting Assignment.

1947. MLLE. A. J. ROBERT.

1946. Mr. F. BAGGOTT.

1947. Mr. E. Buckenham.

"Brethren pray for us"

No. 82

AUTUMN

1947

Our Commission—The Evangelisation of the Arab-speaking Moslems of Algeria and Tunisia (North Africa).

The special vocation wherewith we feel we are called, as a Band, is the evangelisation, as far and as fast as we can, of the great unreached stretches that extend back of the coast line.

I. Lilias Trotter

The King's business required haste.

1 Sam., 21, 8

Editorial

The Summer months of July and August are very much like the doldrums," when activities that make news do not readily appear. This year proved no exception, but September seemed to quiver with a quickened pace, at any rate for the Home Secretary. There were eight days of meetings in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, and above all the happy recollections of new contacts made, prayer interest aroused, and many a heart to heart talk with individuals, stands the very blessed memory of the dedication and farewell service of another young missionary. Mr. Frank Baggott comes from Pudsey, near Leeds, and as he joins the ranks of A.M.B. we rejoice, not only at the anticipated strengthening

of our Field line, but also at the wealth of loving fellowship and prayer that he brings to us from a truly consecrated home and a wide circle of Christian friends.

This has meant a very live prayer auxiliary being started in that region, with Miss Edna Jackson as Local Representative. We hope and trust that every new recruit for whom we are praying may be assured of a similar prayer backing.

A further strengthening of our personnel on the Field is being granted us by the incoming of the youngest son of our General Secretary—Edmund Buckenham—into our ranks. To many of you he is known by name, and you will be glad, with us, that he has chosen

to serve the Lord Jesus in the land where he was born. Thank God for this devoted young life.

God is calling out other young lives into His Service in the Field He has entrusted to us. Their names will appear as time goes on. Please pray through that some of the many ex-Service Men whose hearts were impressed by the tremendous needs of Moslem North Africa may hear the Master's Call and respond.

It may not be that the Call will lead back to North Africa, but there is a very vital part to play on the Home Front. We thank God for a very definite call received by such an ex-Mr.' Will Barker came service friend. into contact with the Mission while serving abroad in the R.A.S.C. He had a great desire to go back to witness for the Master in Algeria, but the Lord has ordered otherwise. It can be said of him, however, as well of any other candidate, "He first gave his own self to the Lord and unto us by the Will of God," for as honorary local representative for East London he is actively engaged in seeking to strengthen our prayer forces and create new interest for the work in that region. Are there any others who feel they would like to do the same? The Home Secretary would be very glad to hear from them.

Another matter that gives us cause for praise is the account of God's faithfulness during the year ending June 30th last, given in the financial statement in this issue. You will notice that this year's receipts nearly double last year's total. To at least one of us this was a definite petition made during that year, i.e., the doubling of the previous year's income. Praise God for the answer. Our expenses, however, have more than doubled owing to greatly increased cost of living, more missionaries on the Field, etc. This of course was met by balances held at the close of the previous financial year and from invested reserves which are noted in the statement, all of which are part of His Provision for us. We give Himour united thanks.

Other points for praise come in the gradual opening up of His Plan regarding our Literature Campaign. The first is in the news, given in the Field Secretary's notes, of the premises offered to us in the city of Algiers as a Literature Centre, another clear answer to prayer. The second is that the fund for our "mobile unit" has now risen to £555, which bids us go forward expectantly. To confirm the leading given by this, God has sent us a recruit whose work once included the designing, building and testing of heavy vehicles such as this. Praise Him, and "Thank you, prayer partners."

As this is being written we are anticipating the Annual Meeting and Re-Union at Caxton Hall on the 23rd September. This promises to be quite a unique occasion, especially the evening session. Two fellow missionaries who are in this country for the first time, Madame P. Nicoud and Monsieur S. Lull, will be with us, also friends old and new, not a few whose friendship began during war days, on active service. May it be a time of strengthening and renewed vision for us all.

I must here make an apology. This issue comes to you later than usual, simply because the Home Secretary has had to do the editing. Owing to the illness of Miss Currie, an old and valued fellow-worker of A.M.B., Miss Roche has been unable to carry out the work this time.

We are glad to say that Miss Currie's health has improved somewhat of late, and we would remember both our friends in prayer, that they may know God's sufficient grace for all their need.

It has been good to receive news from time to time of others of our colleagues who have had to lay down their work because of age and ill-health. Miss Alice McIlroy is unable to write, but news comes through loved ones who watch over her. We would like to assure these friends that she is often

in the thoughts of her fellow workers who had the joy of living and labouring alongside her in past years.

We hear regularly from Miss M. Ridley, from her home in Bournemouth, reminding us that although she, too, is unable to return to Algeria, she is still beside us in thought and prayer, as is also our dear friend Miss I. Sheach, whose heart is still keenly interested in all the work of the Band.

While we of a younger generation are called upon to face a future of new problems and possibilities, we are conscious of the living and abiding nature of the work and witness of these friends, and others like them, whose places in the ranks we must fill.

A passage from the writings of Lilias Trotter comes to my mind as I seek to

sum up our need for prayer:

"It may be in the future the fight will be 'at the gate' as never before, for the forces of evil set themselves just now as if they knew that the last conflict were at hand. So pray for us more earnestly than ever. Pray for us that our own spiritual life may not falter or fail, or stop short of the goal. Pray for us that we may hold together. those of us who have gone on this 'fool's errand' as the world may well call it, and that, as with the heart of one, we may defend each other and the dear souls committed to us, fighting over their heads, as it were, step by step all the way.

Pray above all, that in the din of the strife we may never lose the echo of the cry 'that thirsted for the souls of men' and that the love of the Crucified may spur us through, till we can bring them safely to the place where 'He

shall . . . be satisfied '.'

Written many years ago no words can more truly portray the needs and call of the hour.

Yours in His Service.

Harold W Stalley

Itinerating in the Oued Rbir, M'Zab

God has permitted us, this Spring, once more to make our annual tour in the oases of the South. During the war, circumstances made it necessary for me to make these tours alone and to a great extent by bicycle. I have had the pleasure this year of being accompanied by Mr. Eli Vernier, a missionary from Madagascar who is visiting North Africa. We had the advantage also of doing the greater part of the journey in the car that has been mine since last October.

The work began at Biskra where we sold a French Bible to a Jew while Mr. Vernier was busy with the engine. At Chegga, the first water point, 57 kilometres to the south, where we stopped for a meal, nomads in search of water purchased some of our Gospels.

The trails are in very bad condition because of the dryness of the season, and we had to go slowly, not arriving at Djamaa until the evening. There our friends, M. and Mlle. Gaude, gave us hospitality for three nights which enabled us to visit all the villages in the neighbourhood with our car, within three days.

From the beginning the work was encouraging, everywhere we had opportunities to read and speak to groups of men, in the shops and streets, in village squares, in the shade of palm trees, and also by the roadside. One man offered us coffee, we offered him a Gospel, and very soon there were about thirty listeners pressing around us. We sang a hymn, then read and explained a portion of the Gospel. They listened well, and thanked us, some of them purchased copies for themselves.

At Sidi Sliman, the village where last year it had been impossible to sell a single copy, the reading and explanation of the story of Christ's healing of the paralysed man decided a score of men to buy Gospels. In another part of the same village one man was encouraging

others to buy our books, "They are good" said he, and that was sufficient to make others purchase from us.

At Touggourt where the market and business affairs gathered people together from other oases, we were greatly encouraged by the sales. In the ghetto we had again many interesting talks with Jews, whom the return to Palestine and the question of the Messiah are interesting tremendously. Several eagerly bought complete copies of the Bible or the New Testament in Hebrew and French. Many of them are wondering if Jesus is not the Messiah.

From Touggourt also we visited the surrounding villages. At Moggar we had an interesting talk with a notable person of that region. He knew our books and declared openly that they were not heretical, and encouraged his friends to buy while he himself accepted a Gospel. There were also some hamlets where we sold nothing, and others where we sold but a single copy or only But everywhere we a few Gospels. distributed sometimes tracts, sometimes scripture portions, or left a word of witness with the people. At Touggourt Mr. Vernier conducted the Sunday Services for the few Protestants at the home of Miss Nash. The last day of our stay in the Touggourt region we broke three blades of one of the car springs and damaged the back axle. We had to leave it at a garage for repairs, and continue our tour by means of public transport.

At Ouargla, the administrative centre of a group of oases farther to the south, we worked for several days in the town and the neighbouring villages. Jews and Arabs bought a good number of our books. A Roman Catholic woman bought a Bible for her husband, a soldier in Indo-China.

From Ouargla we passed on to the M'Zab by hiring places on a lorry. In nine hours we covered 220 kilometres of sterile, burnt, sandy desert without a drop of water.

At Ghardhaia, the chief town of the M'Zab, our work began in the lewish quarter, crowded and repugnantly dirty. These Jews were avidly eager to buy all Holy books. We lacked copies of the Pentateuch. In one morning they bought the whole of our remaining stock of Bibles and New Testaments, and bi-lingual brochures in French and Hebrew. In the little shops we had many good conversations with pious Jews, pre-occupied with the question of the Messiah. They are really questioning if Jesus is not the One whom they await. Zechariah XII v.10 embarrassed many to whom we quoted it and asked them to meditate upon it. One could say a great deal about the Mozabites whom I found easier to approach than when I first visited the region in 1932. At Ghardhaia and at Berian the work was fairly easy, and many men bought our books. By contrast, at Beni Izgen, the "holy town," it was very difficult. I was given permission to visit the market and the main shopping street only. I was well received, however, by the Caid, who accepted a copy of the Gospel. At Bou-Noura not a single person would buy, but a young man followed me and outside the town purchased several of my books. It was there that our tour came to an end.

From Ghardhaia we returned to Touggourt in a lorry. At Guerara, a village without inn or hotel, and where we had to pass the night, the Caid received us in the most hospitable fashion, thanks to a telephone call from our Protestant friend at Touggourt, M. Devig.

During this tour we also encountered some opposition. At Beni-Ounan some young men followed us about, hindering people from buying our books and making any who did dare to do so return them to us. At Moggar we saw some of our books burnt before our departure, and so on. These difficulties are met with in all our itinerations, and in all regions. On the whole, however,

the opposition was weak, and for the most part we met with people who were kind, polite and ready to listen to the Word of God or to buy.

On the return journey, after leaving Touggourt, we met with a violent sandstorm. At M'Rair, a village without an hotel, where we had to pass the night, a native gave us shelter in a great barn-like building, where we were able to get the car under cover. In a few minutes a generous meal was served to us. At the same time, a room was prepared with a bed formed of a heap of woollen carpets. We appreciated this refuge the more as the storm outside continued to blow with increasing violence and the night was cold. On the morrow at dawn we found a good breakfast awaiting us. The storm had passed, and after several hours driving we were back at Tolga.

Our tour lasted for three weeks in which time we visited 41 villages, sold 450 Bibles, New Testaments and other books. It was encouraging, and once more we were permitted to ascertain that the attitude of the natives towards the missionaries is not so bad as had been supposed, and that they are still open to the Gospel. Nearly everywhere we went they were well disposed to hear the Word of God read and commented upon. The doors then are still open, and we must seize the opportunity that God offers us to evangelise the Arab people of North Africa. The encouragement of the tour rests less in what has been done than in the possibilities that can be seen if the evangelisation by colportage could only be intensified.

We would like to give thanks first of all to God, who has protected and guided us and who marvellously prepared our way.

We are grateful to those who accompanied us by their prayers, thanks to whom we continually felt the presence of God in the work.

from the General Secretary

"Have not I commanded thee?"....
"Then Joshua commanded, saying, 'Prepare to go in"

Three months ago a certain letter was passed on to us for consideration. With it was a covering letter which ran as follows:—"The enclosed may be of interest to the Algiers Mission Band... There has been a lot of talk, or rumour, or vision of a Book Room in Algiers. It seems that the premises in question could, being central, serve; ... and some, seeking books or interviews, could well be blessed."

After prayerful consideration which left us in some doubt as to the real suitability of the premises referred to, we nevertheless were constrained to enter into correspondence, with a view to accepting the offer of a share in the use of them, if God should so direct. Perhaps the subsequent delay of a reply to certain enquiries made, was to afford us time to "gather assurance" that God was indeed calling us to "preparation." Not until the last possible day for writing these notes, was this reply to reach us, but its purport has meant the appropriation of the above word, "Have not I commanded thee 'Go in'?"

We are further gladdened by the belief that God has already been preparing those to whom He would give a share in this particular service immediately the moment arrives for its opening, which we hope will be in October.

It is fitting here to recall that our Literature Committee has been pressing on with the production of new booklets and tracts, and the reproduction of some whose stocks had run out.

H. W. BUCKENHAM.

The Desert Lion again

You may remember having read about him in this magazine some time ago, but he is a very different lion now, a very tired one, for he is a great age and has been very ill this winter.

There he sits in the corner of his large, sandy court whilst his servants fly in all directions to do his bidding. for he has still all his faculties, and has become even more exacting. A mehri (racing camel) is having a good feed in another corner. Perhaps he had him tethered there because this camel reminds him of his dearly beloved Mesaoud, a most beautiful creature whose cream coat made such a splendid background for the flowing scarlet robes of his master, and really they did look a handsome pair! This same Mesaoud had won many races, and the old man was most proud of this fact. and prouder still to tell us how on the back of this faithful servant he had tracked and caught many a malefactor. and brought him in triumph to the Annexe, and it is whispered that he once brought to the Administrator a head in a basket! The old warrior, who had always been so happy to receive his guests at the outer gate, under the French flag, held out a feeble hand to us in greeting. He paid but little heed to our congratulations on the birth of his grandson. His son then took us to his house next door to visit his wife (a very pretty, shy little soul, already mother of two children and only 16 years of age) or rather, I should say, to make the acquaintance of his son and heir, aged three weeks, a much more important personage than his wife. The little daughter, aged about 18 months, fled from us in terror, for she sees but so few Europeans, perhaps the only one the military doctor who gave her a piqure! These children might well be called "cubs," for they are much more like the grandfather than their father or gentle little mother, both in looks and possibly in

character, for we were told by her father how the little girl had strangled a gazelle with her baby fingers and killed a fenek (desert fox) by throwing something at it.

After a long talk with the young mother, who was very sweet and responsive, we returned to the Lion, and after having prayed for a message to be given me, this came from most unexpected quarters.

Whilst we were talking with the Lion there was a sort of low growl, and, looking up, we saw the mehri towering above us all. No one took any more notice and he growled again. a little louder this time, and after waiting a moment and finding no one paid any attention to his growls, he turned round and walked majestically towards the gate. As we saw his head enter the arch we watched spellbound to see what he would do with his hump which was of course much higher than his head, this latter being lowered. But he was not in the least embarrassed, and just gracefully bent his whole body until it was low enough to enter the gate, then finding the outer gate closed he growled, thus calling to a servant to open it in order that he might retire to his night quarters. Like a flash came the words: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Yes, easier for a camel, he does not mind bending low! Both the Lion and his son listened attentively, and the son was so struck by the words that when the message had been given he asked me to repeat the text again. "My word . . . shall not return unto Me void." So although the old man was silent and his stern face revealed nothing of his feelings, have we not the right to expect that God is working. He has always been such a very kind friend to us and one just longs for light, peace and joy to come to him in these, his latter days on earth.

With the usual native hospitality they pressed us to stay to supper, and it was a supper! A real feast! It was quite dark before we left, there being no moon. We had not gone far before there was a jolt and the car stood still, we had run into a sand dune, and were so tightly wedged that all the chauffeur's efforts to pull us out were of no avail. Looking back, we still could see the friendly lights of the compound we had so recently left, and at the sound of the motor horn, willing feet scampered over the sand which separated us and with six or eight pairs of willing hands to correspond, we were soon pulled out of our dilemma and reached Touggourt later without any further untoward incident.

I. K. NASH.

"Pleasing in Ibis Sight"

To tell of things commonplace on a Mission Station should not be irksome to the relator, or grievous to readers of a missionary magazine, for such stand in the high category of "things that are pleasing in HIS SIGHT." And, because "it is enough for the bond-servant to be as his Lord," the things heeded are valued exclusively upon the only worthy basis of "following in HIS very steps," as these are lovingly recorded by the four chosen narrators of His earthly ministry.

In those records children are more than once to the fore, for His receiving, His blessing, His commendation, and for examples in teaching and warning to disciples and others.

A large part of Blida Station's time and thought is devoted to the "receiving" of little ones, for the supreme purpose of helping them to receive Christ, who ever waits to receive them as really as those who He once "took up in His arms." It would be impossible to compute the number who have been assured of His loving welcome, excelling the welcomes given

during the thirty-nine years of the station's existence.

"For His blessing." So also, whichever path is taken by any member of the station's staff, the same will be met by some little one pressing near for a passing "touch"! "THY touch hath still its ancient power."

"His commendation." "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise." Beyond the exercises of the class-room, the high-sounding praises of the world's Saviour

may often be heard in the streets, from the mouths of the same little ones. And as HIS path was once strewn with branches, and as one and another presented Him with gifts, so these little ones, when flowers are available, prefer to come to the Mission not emptyhanded, and we seem to hear Him say again, "She hath done what she could."

"Teaching and warning." To ourselves comes the word, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones"; for declaring God's command for a second birth, "Except ye become as little children ye shall in no

wise enter into the kingdom of heaven"; and when our path is thronged with young zealots romping and skipping, whom, for decorum's sake we would beg to desist, we are checked by the remembered word. "If these should hold their peace, the stones would cry out." Albeit our names are upon their lips and there stands His word, "He that receiveth you receiveth ME"; and HIS NAME "is as ointment poured forth."

(2) Mothers easily take second place. Next to the children's, their's is the biggest meeting of the week, and many

of our Lord's words are for such souls burdened with the cares of this life. But a recurring problem is how to maintain the possibility of good hearing when so many bring their babes! "And the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said, 'Suffer the little children to come..."

(3) Into their homes. The responsiveness of Jesus to every solicitous request is guidance for each day's demands; the simple statement, "And Jesus went with him" (Mark V v.24) is perfect in its simplicity. And what rich things follow still in His path—pain relieved, hearts comforted, new courage given, because "there are no words like HIS words."

"There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and Jesus was invited and His disciples." Is it an anomaly that often the Christian is invited to a Moslem wedding?... and goes? Anyhow a seat of honour awaits her, or him, as the case may be.

(4) "That they may be one, even as we are one" (John XVII v.22). Here is the crowning point. Sunday afternoons at Blida see an answer in part to that incomparable outpouring of our Saviour's heart, that incontestable challenge for all time with respect to those who should bel'eve on Him. There is not a vestige re naining of racial differences to interfect in this communion of those who are "one in Christ Jesus." For terminological convenience, and as vidence of that "unity of the faith," that "kept unity of the Spirit," essential for "the building up of the body of Christ," we speak of "native families," "French friends," and ourselves, as composing this part of the "fellowship of HIS body." In reality "there is no difference," for "all have been made to drink into one Spirit."

In these gatherings the Cpirit is able to disclose some of "the deep things of God," "spiritually discerned," the number being largely composed of

those who "approve the things that are excellent," and who come expectantly. "One of us" in the above is Mr. Maoudj. As was Paul's passionate love for his "kinsman according to the flesh," so does this brother reveal a like jealous passion for those he writes of in a recent document as "my people" and "our people." We do well to pray that such a one, who is "an epistle of Christ, known and read of all men," may be even more effectually and widely used for the establishing of other converts from Islam, and for the spread of the Gospel beyond them.

Pray for us also as touching the work at Blida, that Mrs. Buckenham and Miss Munro may be strengthened for every opportunity; and that we all may heed Christ's word, "The disciple... when he is perfected, shall be as his Master": "For whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in HIS SIGHT"; and "LOVE IS HIS WAY."

H. W. B.,

Some readers may be interested to hear news of Sherifa who used to teach Arabic at Rue du Croissant. Miss Lincoln of Fez told me she is teaching in a Mission school for Girls at Fez. Sherifa was delighted to get a message from Algiers and some Arabic tracts.

S. E. PERKIN.

"Great resolves of heart."

It has been cheering to observe the earnestness possessing those recruits already on the Field whom God has been preparing for the new day ahead. The necessary zest for grappling with the languages, the desire to use what has already been acquired, and an understanding and deep fellowship in prayer, have combined to give this cheer, even as in a former great day of God when "there was great thoughts, impressions, resolves of heart," before a new victory was secured.

ALGIERS MISSION BAND

Field Statement of Accounts for the Year ending June 30th, 1947

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Algiers, 20th August, 1947. HENRY R. Ti	JRNER.	i	

HOME OFFICE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 30th June, 1947.						
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Other Designated Funds 369 1 0	1,211 12	1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	106 1	.5 3	ì	
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1,050 0 0 3% Savings Bonds 60/70. 360 0 0 Investment Trust Corporation Deferred Stock. 20 0 0 Industrial and General Trust Ordinary Stock.		,, Balances at Banks and in hand 30th June, 1947, viz:—	3,458	8	7	
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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).

"Parables of the Cross"

 B_{Σ}

I. LILIAS TROTTER

A New Edition of this unique work from the pen of Lilias Trotter, of Algiers, founder of the Algiers Mission Band, IS NOW ON SALE. Illustrated by full-colour reproductions of her own beautiful paintings, it has been republished by Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Ltd., in conjunction with the A.M.B. A beautiful Christmas Gift.

You may secure your copies by ordering from the Secretary.

Price 8/6

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Suggestions for those who would be "Fellow workers unto the Kingdom of God" in North Africa.

HOW YOU MAY HELP

By becoming a Prayer Partner. Intercession on behalf of the work and the workers is greatly needed and deeply valued.

The occasional Prayer Letter giving the special requests and news from the Field will gladly be sent on application to the Secretary at Home.

By forming or joining an A.M.B. Prayer Group in your district, or by bringing A.M.B. needs before Prayer Groups already formed.

By passing on this magazine to another Christian friend.

By arranging meetings in drawing-room, hall, or church, thus giving an opportunity of spreading a knowledge of the work.

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