

No. 102 Winter, 1952-3

Algiers Mission Band

FOUNDED IN 1888 BY MISS I. LILIAS TROTTER.

HEADQUARTERS: DAR NAAMA, EL BIAR, ALGIERS. General Secretary and Treasurer: MR, H, W, BUCKENHAM. Corresponding Secretary and Hostess: MISS V. WOOD.

Great Britain: Chairman of Home Council: MR. JOHN L. OLIVER. *Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Douglas Pilcher, 37, Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

U.S.A. Advisory Council:

Chairman: Pastor RALPH H. STOLL, 2800, Fourth Avenue, Altoona, Pa. Secretary: Mr. Roy H. WAGNER, 204, E. 23rd Avenue, Altoona, Pa. Treasurer: Mr. Charles A. Hauser, 1115, Eighth Avenue, Altoona, Pa.

OVERSEAS REFEREES:

DR. PHILIP E. HOWARD, IR., The Sunday School Times, Heid Buildings. 325, North Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia 5, Pa., U.S.A. M. LE PASTEUR CHATONEY, 82, Boulevard St. Saens, Algiers.

M. LE PASTEUR ROLLAND, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria.

MR. LEUTENNEGGER, Hennaya, Tlemcen (Oran), Algeria.

MLLE. L. SAILLENS, L'Institut Biblique, 39, Grand-Rue, Nogent-sur-Maine, Seine, France.

DR. R. PACHE, L'Institut Emmaus, Vennes-sur-Lausanne, Switzerland

MR. H. E. ALEXANDER, Le Roc, Cologny, Switzerland (Ecole Biblique de Genève). MISS RONA SMEETON, 811, New North Road, Mt. Albert, S.W.2, Auckland, New Zealand.

STATIONS AND WORKERS.

DAR NAAMA

AIN-ARNAT.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Buckenham. Mr. and Mme. NICOUD.

Miss V. Wood.

Mlle. Y. Félix.

Mlle, A. BUTTICAZ, Mlle, G. CHOLLET.

RELIZANE.

BLIDA.

*Rev. and Mrs. R. WAINE.

(in England).

Miss E. CLARK. Miss A. E. POWELL.

TOLGA.

MILIANA.

Miss M. D. Grautoff.

Miss P. M. Russell.

Mlle. I. Gurbé.

Miss G. Arenholt.

Mme. LULL

TLEMCEN.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Porteous.

Miss I. FLETCHER.

TOUGGOURT.

TAMANRASSET.

Miss I. Nash.

Rev. and Mrs. F. BAGGOTT.

* Mr. Pilcher is resigning his post at the end of January, and Mr. R. Waine will be taking his place, as a temporary appointment.

No. 102

Winter.

1952-3

A Pear of Joys and Sorrows in the Work.

At the opening of the New Year, our thoughts are apt to turn again to memories of the happenings of the Old Year. We find joy and sorrow mingling in the history of the work in most of the stations. At Miliana, an old sorrow of years ago, the complete estrangement and separation from her Christian teachers of a young woman, who had shown many signs of real faith, has now been changed to gladness by the wonderful re-opening of the doors to this woman's home and heart. The evil influences that worked the harm have now been taken away, or lost their power; and the way seems open again for the missionaries to give her spiritual aid.

At Bousaada there was sorrow early in the year, when the station which had been occupied for so many years had to be closed, because the owners were selling the house. But there was gladness in the knowledge that the missionaries would certainly have the possibility of returning to spend some weeks there, at any rate, during the winter months; and meanwhile, that at Ain-Arnat, in the region of Sétif, they found many openings for reaching the people there with the Gospel message, and a hopeful response to their teaching: while the help and love they have given to so many sick and sorry ones has led some to listen more gladly to the teaching about Jesus, seeing that His followers are so kind. Not long before they

left Bousaada, the missionaries had had the sorrow of parting with their daughter in the faith there, who was going to join her husband, working in France. They realised how hard the life, away from her Christian friends, might be: and great was their joy to receive lately a letter from her, which showed that she had still the same love to them, and that her faith and trust in the Lord Jesus is as strong as ever.

At Tolga, the limitations to the work, owing to the lack of helpers is sad indeed; but Madame Lull—carrying on single-handed with courage, is able to rejoice in the signs of continued interest in the Word shown by some of the young men there, and in the good attendance and attention of the little girls in the school—and she testifies that the Lord has wonderfully sustained her.

At Touggourt, Miss Nash has had more than enough to do with the numbers of children coming to her classes; but what a joy also, to see them so happy to come, and to know that each time they are taking away with them some precious words or stories of the Lord's love, which their faithful memories are sure to retain. There was sadness in hearing, during her absence, of the death of a man who had professed faith in Christ as the Saviour some years ago, but who was hindered, kept back by his weakness for "kif," and seemed unable to lay hold with faith on

us." "Blessed are all they that wait for Him." Luther found that the busier the day ahead, the more time he required alone with God. He knew that his strength was to "sit still," and yet he was instrumental in changing the face of Europe.

The very fruits of our activity for God should suffice to give us a clear danger signal. Our activity produces a rushed spirit, a rushed spirit breeds irritability; and irritability leaves its mark in hardness of heart to others, coldness of heart towards God. So our lives may be legally correct, but others find it hard to live with us, and we find it hard to live in heart unity with our fellow-workers. Instead of the thrilling overflow of Christian charity welding into unity and harmony the Body of Christ as divinely planned, there is silent criticism of those present—and merciless criticism of those absent—even fellow labourers. In place of the forgiving spirit which keeps the heart warm and tender, a stiff-necked, self-vindicating spirit is manifested.

Our activity is too often a covering to hide the poverty or complete lack of faith. We do not need faith in order to be active for God, we do need faith to "sit still" and let God work. We don't need faith to be busy in seeking the lost, but we need faith very much to see God active in the salvation of souls. Activity is a curse so long as it remains merely our activity for God. Holy Ghost activity in and through the Christian is the only fruitful activity. Without the purifying, sanctifying power of God in our lives, we can hold classes, preach the gospel, give out tracts, or attend to the sick: but we need PURITY and HOLINESS if we are to SEE God; and to see Him "Our Gideons must Isaiahs be-Visions first, then victory." Of Bishop Westcott it is written :- "He used to REPOSE AMONG ETERNAL THINGS." Why? Because only those are ready to meet the world's needs who have been touched with the live coals from off the altar. How many of God's saints testify "when I came to the end of myself, my strivings and my activity for God—GOD CAME—He took over, and my life henceforth bare fruit."

"Wait till ve be endued with power from on high "said Iesus to His disciples. in order that they might become heralds of the Gospel, and living witnesses to its power. Thus our weapons are not carnal but spiritual; and we dare not tackle the missionary problem as the worldling would, for it is " not by might nor by power but by My Spirit." "Convert a soul without the Spirit of God," cried Spurgeon, "Why you can't even make a fly, much less create a new heart and renew a right spirit." Likewise Moody, heralded as one of the world's greatest revivalists, writes "The Holy Spirit is the one great Revivalist."

There may be immediate agreement that, without the power from on High, we can do nothing of eternal value: but to stop our activity and TO SIT STILL sounds like sacrilege against the Divine commission to evangelise as far and as fast as we can. Let us beware with what spirit we interpret God's word "SIT STILL "—a carnal interpretation is not To "SIT worth time or thought. STILL" strips one of all the camouflage of activity, stills the flurry of voices around, and behold we are ALONE in the presence of Almighty God. What a revelation of self emerges. Much radical cleansing of the inner and the outer life must follow. Activity is replaced by capability, irritability by tranquillity, hardness of spirit by humility, coldhearted criticism by warm-hearted love: till at last the revelation breaks upon usthat to "SIT STILL" is the most practical and fruitful Christian life. It means that, before preaching an uttermost Saviour, one accepts an uttermost salvation: before calling on others to receive a redemption full and free, one is first saved by Redeeming Love from self and every thing in one's life that would mar the testimony. Then we discover that what counts with God is not activity but character, for are not God's precious promises given that we may be partakers of the divine nature? "The heathen shall know that I am the Lord-when I shall be

sanctified IN YOU before their eyes."

Is the standard too high? It is not man's but God's standard; and God never asks us to BE anything which we cannot be through the strength which He is willing to give. FAITH is the link between our weakness and His almightiness.

"What shall we do that we might work the works of God?" Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him Whom He has sent."

A. Porteous.

"My hands were growing feverish,
And cumbered with much care;
Trembling with haste and eagerness,
Nor folded oft in prayer.
The Master came and touched my hands
(With healing in His own),
And calm and still to do His will
They grew—the fever gone.

'I must have quiet hands,' said He,
'Wherewith to work My works
through thee.'

"My hands were strong in fancied strength,
But not in power divine,
And bold to take up tasks at length
That were not His, but mine.
The Master came and touched my hands
(And might was in His own),
But mine since then have powerless been,
Save His are laid thereon.

'And it is only thus,' said He,

'That I can work my works through
thee'."

Miss Isabella Sheach.

Missionary among the Muslims of algeria from 1922 to 1939.

Isabella Sheach received her call to work among the Muslims of North Africa through hearing Miss Alice McIlroy, of the A.M.B., speaking, at a missionary meeting in Scotland.

She was converted when she was twelve years of age. Later as a Sunday school teacher, she had the joy of seeing most of her scholars led to the Saviour, through her influence.

Miss Sheach was a school teacher in Glasgow; but, when she was about fifty

years old, she left her home and work in Scotland to answer the call to Algeria.

She had a very keen sense of humour; she was also artistic, but at the same time very practical.

Her letter of application arrived one day, when I was staying at the Blida cottage with Miss Trotter. As she read Miss Sheach's letter Miss Trotter commented on the fact that her name was Sheach (like the Arabic word for teacher or chief), and that her address in Scotland was Smeeton Street (Smeeton being the name of a gentleman who was at that time a member of our Committee.) Miss Trotter added that she thought Miss Sheach would make a very good helper for me.

Later she was accepted, and worked with me in the Arab town of Algiers, where we had classes for women, girls and boys. She had a gift for work among children, and they loved her.

A few years later we opened a station in Dellys, on the sea coast, where the male population are chiefly occupied in fishing. There we did a good deal of medical work, as well as visiting, "villaging," and class work; and were well-known and received by the natives. Just before I retired in 1951, I was able to visit Dellys: the people, who had much appreciated Miss Sheach, when she worked amongst them, were all enquiring after her.

At Sétif also, where we were working together for some time, "Mademoiselle Sheikha" was well known and loved.

In talking about her with my sister the other day, my sister remarked that she thought that the period when Miss Sheach and I were working together seemed to her the happiest time in my missionary life. Our tastes were similar, and we fitted in remarkably well. We both loved nature, and enjoyed our walks to the villages. We both were fond of being at work. I never had to urge her to do anything: she loved every part of the work.

Although she was well past middle age when she began her life in the Mission, she managed to learn Arabic sufficiently to speak in meetings. Miss Sheach was liked by all members of the Band.

She was about seventy years of age when war was declared, and she felt that the time had come for her to retire. To the end of her life she retained her keen interest in the work of the A.M.B. and was a faithful helper by her prayers.

A. M. FARMER.

The flight fought, the Course finished, the faith kept.

We thank God for the life and work of Mr. W. Cecil Collinson. For a period of thirty-two years we shared in his love and zeal for the testimony of Christ in North Africa.

His particular part and lot with the A.M.B. in this dates back to a meeting in Bury St. Edmunds shortly before our coming out in January, 1920, when as chairman of the district Free Church Council he commended us to the prayers of those present and bade us God-speed.

It was not very long thereafter that his visits to the Field began and his longings made themselves felt. Miss Trotter's "Story of 1924-25" mentions him as being already our Hon. Deputation Secretary, as well as member of the Advisory Council in England. Soon after he became a joint-trustee of our interests in England, and a member of the Mission's Executive Committee.

In the April issue of "Together" (a Prayer-helper's publication of the time), Miss Trotter wrote under the head-line "make this valley full of ditches":-"At Easter another channel was opened. Mr. Collinson, a friend of those among us who hail from Suffolk, came for two or three weeks stay in the land. The needs so took hold on his heart that out of those few days grew the starting of the Bou-Saada Station and the Mission car, and the offer of his personal service as Deputation Secretary."

many subsequent years contributed largely to the upkeep of Bou-Saada station, and took specially upon his heart our desert colportage

journeys.

As Deputation Secretary he brought vividly before his audiences some of the work he had witnessed, illustrated by

pictures of his own taking.

Later as Chairman of the Home Council he jealously watched over the interests of the Mission, and when we have passed through deep waters he himself went into the depths with us. With each extension of the work and triumph of God's grace, also, he equally shared our joy.

When on furlough we came to know the orderliness and sanctity of his homelife-at Bury St. Edmunds, Ipswich, and

London.

His wider spheres of service did not lessen his regard and concern for our interests, and as recently as March of the present year our Home Secretary included a gift from him, "specifically for Field allowances," the Mission's greatest need of the moment.

Our sympathies go out to all his nearest and dearest in their mourning; and we thank God for his children, who are following in his steps.

H. W. AND A. BUCKENHAM.

A 18it About the 18abies.

Now that we have among us in Miliana one fully trained in nursing, we find that many mothers come for help and advice over their sick babies.

One such little sufferer was put into the Miliana hospital, under doctor's orders, and after much talk and persuasion.

When visiting day came we went with father, mother, great-aunt, and several friends or relatives to the baby ward. The little Hamed was lifted from his cot, and they sat on the floor of the ward weeping over him. One of them, against nurse's orders, would have fed him with a hardboiled egg, and another brought two big apples.

When the time came to leave we had some difficulty in hurrying the weeping mother away from her screaming babe.

Visiting day came again all too soon: this time an indignant great-aunt and a sobbing, pleading mother went with us

to the hospital determined to rescue the child—though word had come that the little one needed to stay in a few days longer. The harassed father joined us at the hospital gate; and I wondered what could be done to give them some common sense? But prayer is the best way at such times. What was our relief when a nurse came to say the parents might take their child home, on condition that he continued to have treatment at the Mission house. Now, thank God, the little one is doing well, and the parents are grateful; mother and great-aunt come regularly to the women's meetings, and the child is brought for daily treatment.

A sadder case is our little withered babe (as we call him). He is about twenty months old, and weighs only nine pounds. The parents are ignorant, and they will not let him go into hospital, or have advice from the doctor, lest he orders injections. We fear that soon this unwise mother will be weeping over the loss of her son; but the little one will be safe in God's keeping. The mother goes out to work, and an elder brother brings the little sufferer daily for his medicine—such tired little babies creep into our hearts.

It is your prayers we need for this little impromptu dispensary twice a week—that the mothers may be willing to get the doctor's advice; and that they and the relatives may connect all the love and care given to these babes with our Lord Jesus Christ, and get a hunger in their hearts to learn of Him.

M. D. GRAUTOFF.

The Little Ones Jesus Wants.

Since coming to Miliana, our Lord's word—"Suffer the little children to come unto Me" has taken a deeper meaning for me. The streets here are just swarming with children! Your heart absolutely melts, when tiny toddlers come up to you in the street and—poking their dirty, sticky little hands into yours—they say "Bon jour, Madame"; and then, as quick as they can go, off they run.

But, looking around, and seeing the impress of Islam in every detail of the physical as well as the spiritual realm, one comes to a standstill and says :-"How can we do it Lord? Where shall we begin?"—And the Lord's answer is: "Let the little children come unto Me." How important it is that Iesus should be portrayed to them clearly, before the eyes of their understanding are blinded by the influence of Islam. You can understand how one rejoices to see even infant boys and girls come along to their classes at the Mission house every Thursday and Sunday—as if it was quite a natural thing to do and had become a habit.

"What more can we do, Lord, to draw their attention to Thee, to teach them to love Thee? They do not want us, they never asked us to come-what shall we do, how shall we act towards them, so that they shall come to listen to the Good News?" And the word comes: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." "Love one another, as I have loved you." If one really means business, there are endless opportunities to show forth that mind, and that love in the thousand occurrences of daily life. We can practice obedience to these two orders, in trying to help our Arab neighbours, and to make easier to them the hard pathway of their life.

What a privilege it is thus to be allowed to help some of them in times of illness! To see a dear little baby get well again, after you have been giving it treatment, is reward enough in itself. But, besides that, there is a more far-reaching effect, in the softening of the mother's heart, which begins a gentle breaking-down of the barriers set up against the Gospel. Praise be to the Lord for that: whenever we obey His Word, things begin to happen.

The third word which has come to me is: "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." It makes one realise, that if the victory of Calvary is to be worked out here, our first and most important work must be prayer. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down

of strong holds." And—friends in the Homeland—only "through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" shall we be enabled for such a work of prayer. Grethe Arenholt.

A.M.B. Literature and Where it Goes.

The A.M.B. is first and foremost a mission of evangelization. Its workers are mainly engaged in preaching and teaching the GOOD NEWS by word of mouth in classes and meetings, in informal talks with individuals or with groups of Moslems in their own homes or in the mission houses. But the written Word plays a large part also in the Mission work of most stations: and the task of distributing literature reaches out beyond the limits of the town where the Mission has a station.

What is the literature distributed? First of all, of course, it is Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels or other Scripture portions, mostly in Arabic and French. Secondly, there are tracts and booklets containing Gospel messages: allegories or stories with Christian teaching in their application: histories of Old Testament characters with New Testament comments or quotations, bringing out the Christian lesson: illustrated stories of parables and miracles, suitable for children and illiterates, etc.

Whence does this literature come? The Bible Society depôt in Algiers can supply Bibles and different books of the Bible, in French and Arabic; and has many books of the New Testament in the spoken Arabic of Algeria. The Scripture Gift Mission and the Trinitarian Bible Society have been generous with grants. But, besides this, the A.M.B. has its own source of supply. I have before me a list of the productions of the A.M.B. printed during the course of the Mission's 64 years of existence. The last number on the list is No. 70; and there have been reprints of several.

Some of these publications were printed by the Nile Mission Press, the most important of these being Miss Trotter's book—"The Sevenfold Secret,"

now alas, out of print—but formerly described by more than one missionary as "a best seller." For the rest, the Literature Fund of the A.M.B. was mainly responsible for the printing of the original issue, and in some cases the reprint of a second edition. The offer (by the Trinitarian Bible Society) of free production of four Arabic leaflets was a great boon.

How is the literature distributed? The different A.M.B. stations each keep a little stock in their own stations for selling or giving in their immediate neighbourhood. But those who can undertake journeys in the interior for colportage work, can draw on the supplies at Headquarters for larger quantities.

Missionaries of other missions also make use of the A.M.B. literature. During the last twelve months, missionaries visiting Dar Naama have bought a considerable quantity of tracts and leaflets, sometimes returning for a fresh stock when they have found the first lot were well received, and easily disposed In addition to this, orders for literature are not infrequently received by post: and parcels have been sent to several different mission fields. Besides Tunis, whence repeated orders are received, parcels have gone to other parts of Tunisia: Morocco has had a large share: a very big order came for tracts to distribute among the North Africans labouring in France: Gao, in French Soudan: Niamey, in French Nigeria: a Swedish mission in French Equatorial Africa: and a mission in Senegal: all these have been supplied (sometimes more than once) with stocks of our publications during 1952. This is surely to "cast thy bread upon the waters" to which the promise is "thou shalt find it after many days." When we remember that not one of the booklets sent out thus is without a message from God's Word, which "shall not return unto Me void," the prayers that went with the compiling of them are linked with a prayer that He may use them, and a thanksgiving that we can believe that He does do so.

V. Wood.

Algiers Mission Band

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30th, 1952.

RECEIPTS.		1	PAYM	ENTS.
FRANCS FRANCS FRANCS 759,15 7	25 30 00 — 2,859,455 73 77	Deficit July 1st, 1951 To Missionaries' Allowances , Rents, Taxes and Repairs , Travelling , Postage and Stationery , Headquarters Service & Expenses , Various Mission Expenses APPROPRIATED FUNDS: To Literature Production ,, Colportage and Itinerations	FRANCS. 403,352 2,026,432 1,78,645 57,944 5,191 420,450 96,862 1,391 21,320 1,436,196	3,188,872 1,458.907 377,590 5,025,369
General Secretary and Treasurer		Examined and found correct,		

General Secretary and Treasurer
(Signed) H. W. BUCKENHAM,
Dar Naama, El Biar, Algiers.

Examined and found correct, FL Biar (Algiers), November 22nd, 1952. (Signed) Henry R. Turner.

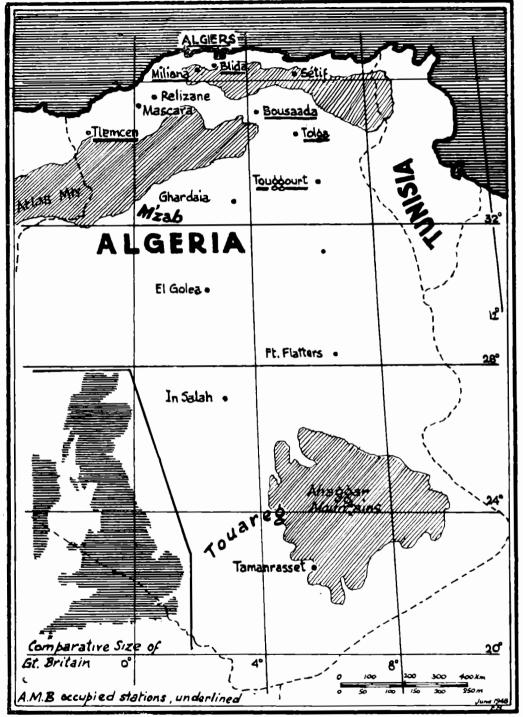
HOME OFFICE CASH ACCOUNT-YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1952.

HOME OFFICE CASH ACCOUNT—TEAR ENDED Soil JUNE, 1932.							
RECEIPTS.	1	PAYMENT	S.				
Subscriptions and Donations 1,441 4 10	£ s. d.	Remittances to Field and pay-	£ s.				
	1.485 16 5	ments to Missionaries at Home Retired Missionaries	886 8 134 8				
Home Literature Fund Other Designated Funds	37 9 11 1,219 7 10	Expenses of Home Office, viz. :—		— 1,020 16 2			
Cash Balances, 1st July, 1951:		Allowances and Office Rent Stationery and Postages	167 4 59 7	7			
Home Literature Fund 131 5 2 Other Designated Funds 46 9 9		Hire of Halls	7 15	0			
General Fund 260 16 7	438 11 6	House General Expenses	15 17 57 10	8			
		Deputation Expenses		- 307 14 3 90 10 10			
		Magazine Account Home Literature Fund		147 15 1 19 10 11 1,252 12 1			
		Other Designated Funds Cash Balances, 30th June, 1952:		•			
		Home Literature Fund Other Designated Funds	149 4	2			
		General Fund	179 16	 342 6 4			
	£3,181 5 8			£3,181 5 8			

Missionaries Allowances and Home Allowances were very considerably in arrears at 30th June, 1952.

I have examined the foregoing accounts with the books and vouchers and have found them to be correct.

11, POULTRY, E.C.2. 11th November, 1952 C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.



Printed in England by C. Baldwin, Ltd., Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells