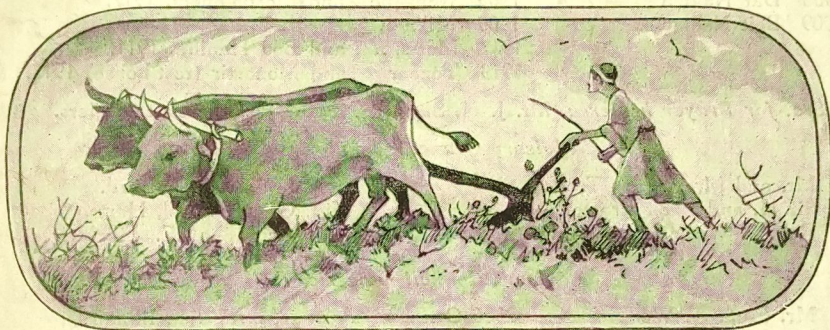


# Algiers Mission Band



Story of 1919-20.

## ALGIERS MISSION BAND.

### STATIONS, 1919-20.

<i>Algiers.</i>	<i>Country.</i>	<i>Sub-Stations.</i>
1893 2 Rue du Croissant	1908 Blida	
1908 Dar Naama	1909 Relizane	and Mostaganem, 1917.
1909 Beit Naama	1909 Miliana	
	1912 Mascara	and Bou Hanifia, 1911.
	1913 Tozeur	and Monastir (rest-house) 1917.

*Sec. for Prayer helpers:* Mr. J. H. Smeeton, 2 Rue du Croissant, Algiers.

#### *Advisory Council—London:*

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Trotter - - Broomfield Lodge, Chelmsford.  
Sir H. and Lady Proctor - - Ware Hill, Great Arwell, Herts.  
Rev. S. W. and Mrs. Howe - - St. Luke's Vicarage, C.E., Finchley.

#### *Advisory Council—America:*

Mr. Fred. A. Wells - 2306 Orrington Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.  
Mr. J. W. Kinnear - 1112 North Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, Penn.  
Mr. Paul C. Warren - Three Oaks, Michigan.

#### *Algerian Women's Mission Band—America:*

*Sec.:* Mrs. J. A. Walker, S.S. Ass., 2300 Dexter Street, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A.

**WORKERS ON THE FIELD. Winter 1919-1920.**

(In order of arrival.)

1888	I. Lilius Trotter	1912	Mr. J. H. Smeeton
1890	F. Helen Freeman	„	Senor C. Soler
1906	Sascha E. Perkin	1914	Augusta M. Farmer
„	Alexandrine Gayral	*1915	Frances Brittle
1907	Mabel D. Grautoff	1916	Kathleen Butler
„	E. R. May Ridley	1919	Mons. le Pasteur J. P. Cook
1909	Fanny K. Currie	„	Madame Cook
„	Millicent Roche	„	Mons. Pierre Nicoud
„	Alma Krebs	„	Augusta Butticaaz
„	M. Mary Watling	* „	Rosie Govan
„	Alice McIlroy	1920	Mr. Buckenham
1911	Ida Nash	„	Mrs. Buckenham

\* Short Service.

“BREAK UP YOUR FALLOW GROUND,  
for it is time to seek the Lord, until He  
come and reign righteousness upon you.”

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THAT command seems the keynote of God's ways with us in the year that is past.

All has lain fallow during war time ; we were thankful to be allowed to tend in peace the tiny patches of soil that lay, so to speak, under our hand. To think of all the endless beyond of horizons out of reach, only made our hearts ache : for the needful restrictions on moving about and on circulating literature, held us fast.

Very gradually the conditions changed : so gradually that during the first half of last year our path was much as usual at each station.

Here are their résumés. To begin out west—

**Mascara** held on its lonely way : It is a city set on a hill of lime-stone, far off the main line. Its people are wild and fanatical, and entrance among them has been hard to win. But the love-keys have turned at last in their stiff sockets, and the doors stand open on all sides. Within them are souls who dimly

reach out their hands to the sunshine of the heavenly light, and some, we trust, have gone into its fulness on the other shore (where one of the Mascara workers, our dear Madame Arnaud, entered last autumn to meet them). The Spanish Evangelist's visiting parish is a still wider one, including, to the north, Bou Hanifa, where he holds regular meetings among the Arab workmen.

**Relizane** station was closed for nearly six months during the year 1919, the two workers being in England on long furlough. Regular work ceased at the end of April, but for some weeks a few classes were held by Mlle. Gayral, who also visited among the people. In November the station was again opened, but the two workers were handicapped by illness and it was not till December that classes were begun with any stability. During the year there have been seventeen classes weekly. At each of these classes, Bible-teaching has been given, three of them being purely evangelistic.

In addition to these there have been occasional classes for Arab boys on week-days, and on Sundays a small Bible class for young European members of the French church.

**Mostaganem** still holds more of an outpost position than that of a regular station, for no suitable house has yet been found, and all has had to be done from a single room. This hampers outward progress, except in the ever-extending circle of families willing to be visited, and to hear of Christ in their own homes. Will some take it on their hearts to pray that against all probabilities, a mission house may soon be found?

**Miliana** writes "There seem two special advance points in 1919. In March it became necessary to move our Girls' class out of town. We found a good-sized Arab room, with a prayer-niche where a 'saint' of old prayed, and a door-key weighing 2-lbs. Our average attendance in the two classes there, is twenty-five to thirty. Young girls too big or of too well-to-do families to go into town, may run in from their fruit gardens, and so can the little ones, too small to risk the road traffic.

"The second point for prayer and praise is that our Christian girl and her sister have had a quiet year of almost daily teaching. They are mastering reading in simple Arabic and have begun to read in the classical, and in French. We feel now when we go to them that we meet little sisters in Christ, able to share in the Christian truths, and desiring to witness as far as their hampered lives allow. In the spring an itineration was made down south to Laghouat and Messad, where we were able to use our new colportage rights. Later in the summer we had a time at Teniet el Haad among the hamlets of the cedar-crowned ridge that lies between us and the desert. In the autumn the mission premises, formerly rented, were secured, so now in town we can go forward afresh."

**Blida** chronicles regular attendance and quiet listening at the classes. Some of the girls hardly ever missed coming. Among others were schoolgirls, who have a special need of their own. Their minds are awake and alert; they see their parents are ignorant; the spirit of freedom is touching them, and they need Christ.

“ New doors open to us, one open door leading to others, more than could “ be compassed, and there has been a spirit of willingness and desire to hear the “ message.”

Then away out to the East in our dear **Tozeur**, there was as ever the sense of the Spirit's brooding ; more than that, we saw His “ Let there be light ” reaching souls. The little golden-matted reading-room was rarely empty for long together, and many were the days when scarcely a break came, hour after hour, in the stream of men and lads who wanted to hear.

The conviction forced itself increasingly, that the place can only be worked as it should be, when God sends us one who can be a brother to these seeking souls. That again awaits not the brother only, but the gift from heaven of the premises there. For while we rent them in part as now, there is no room for lodging the married couple for whom we pray. Please remember these needs.

**Algiers** with its three houses, 2 rue du Croissant, Dar Naama, and Beit Naama, comes last. “ Short Service ” still lies in abeyance, so its hostel has been given up.

The only two new souls that we can say bear clear evidence of having received eternal life among us in Algiers during last year, are girl cousins, belonging to the well-to-do class. These came over the line to Christ in the summer, and are needing all the help we can give them in their first battles. Otherwise, both in the general work and among the blind, it has been a fight to hold our

ground rather than any definite advance. I suppose there must come these times of defensive ; you will see later in the year's story, that the hour for a fresh assault seems on the way, thank God.

And even in its early months, indications of this began to come by His bringing in fresh helpers. As far back as January, Monsieur and Madame J. P. Cook took their long-delayed place among us, with all this meant in the possibilities of extension among men and boys. In the spring came an offer of service from a young Swiss, Mons. Pierre Nicoud, eager and practical. He threw himself at once into language study, the improvement of the Dar Naama land, and the development of a Patrol of Boy Scouts from the French Protestant families, with the view to drawing in, when once rooted, native boys as well. Another Swiss helper, Mlle. Butticaz, who came to give a hand with household matters, was also before the end of the year proving her worth as a mission helper on probation. By then also we were able to welcome back from South Africa one of our war-detained workers.

But to go back to the summer's story. Furloughs were many, for they were mostly overdue. The most overdue of all was deliberately given over, before it began, to making known our needs wherever an opening might come, in England, Scotland and Ireland. "I have faith that God will call out two new workers through these meetings" said the volunteer. One of these, a new girl secretary on "Short Service" was here for the autumn start, and offers came, through these same meetings, of six others.



But this weaves into another bit of the summer's history. While that round of meetings was still going on, it was possible for two of us who were left, to take two or three weeks away from the big household at Dar Naama, in a coast village crowned with the ruins of churches of the Roman time, standing in old gold against a sapphire sea. Was it the sight of these, with their dumb appeal? was it Hudson Taylor's Life which there was leisure now to read? or was it just that God had time at last to speak? Any way, in those quiet days came a vision of the fallow ground stretching around us out of sight . . . a realization that to the two million Arabic-speaking men and boys—(at the lowest estimate)—of Algeria, there were (at the highest estimate) four European men with any language qualification for reaching them. The realization burned itself in till it kindled into prayer. Twenty Arabic speaking men: ten for ourselves, ten for the other missions: that would not seem a great supply if it concerned earthly need—earthly commerce—earthly warfare. It was rather a pitifully small request to put before the King of Heaven. Yet so it focussed, and so it went up.

Even thus it would mean, as we knew well, a launching out of faith, for no inch of margin remained to our seen supplies. Yet as we looked back, we could see how God had slowly brought us to this point in many a tender way, sending us funds again and again only just ahead of the needs that had developed. So for years we had not been in the dry dock, so to speak, of resting on known resources, but gently the water had been flowing under our keel, and we had been afloat on God, hardly knowing it. So now, when His word came at last, to launch out into the deep, we knew it only meant ceasing to hug the shore, and keep within

sight of human help ; and the cry went on; and those who came back from furlough joined in it, come what might " Send us twenty men for the Arabs."

We had not long to wait for His seal. The week before our October Rally brought us the first offer from Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham. They were ready to sell up home and business and come out at their own charges for passage and outfit. They are with us now, God bless them ! The next week brought the first specified gift—£100— for the " Go Forward " and before the end of the year we were in correspondence with the other two couples mentioned above, who offered through these first two. Meanwhile other work alongside was getting reinforced by three new men workers who went straight into Arabic study, one of them brought from New Zealand by the longing of his heart to take up the challenge of Islam to the Cross.

July, 1920.

Thus far was written in the winter. Various things have hindered the bringing out of the Report as usual in the spring, and our purpose is now, that, instead, we should bring it up, year by year, to the close of the season's work in summertime.

So this gives six more months of the making of history, and they have been months when we believe history *has* been made. A fuller account of them will go round shortly, in a new form of the old-time Journal, to our inner circle of Prayer-helpers.

But now for their résumé. With the New Year came the beginning of a gathering tide of intercession around us. Mr. and Mrs. Govan of the Faith Mission, whose daughter was already with us for Secretary help, were the first to help in its rising: and with them we welcomed in the arrival of the Buckenhams and their baby-boy. Soon after came another friend, whose faithful "furthering" of every kind has been round us since we met at the pension on the night of our first arrival, thirty-two years ago. Then came yet another, for some months stay, whose heart has been hungering for years to get back to the land and the natives that she loves. Finally we rejoiced over the arrival of the Secretary of our American Branch, Mrs. T. A. Walker, of Denver. She has loved us and toiled for us for long, and has waited since 1914 to come and spend a year with us, to study the conditions of child-life, and how best to reach the child-hearts with Christ's message. And here she is at last. They all took us and the stations and the "beyond" on their dear hearts, and got to know all the missionaries around, for these gathered during the Missionary Conference—(the first since the war began)—which Mr. Govan led just before he left, thus culminating his ministry among us. Then began the special work of the last comer, in giving fresh impetus towards aggressive itineration from Headquarters, for which the day had suddenly dawned. Every station has felt, independently, the impulse of God's Spirit in that direction. Relizane has had beautiful openings among the quaint villages of the coast-hills around. Miliana has got up to Teniet again, and down to the Bousaada oasis. Blida has had its long-awaited-for opening at Medea, on the pass to the south above them. And everywhere when markets have been visited, and

little bookstalls put up in them, listeners and buyers have crowded round. It is time indeed that the ploughshare should be driven in, for the soil is soft already. And it is not just a single visit that these places need. The French agriculturists are finding out that in earthly ploughing, the fulness of the harvest is to be reached by going over and over with the ploughshare fifteen or sixteen times till the weeds are cut to pieces and the nitrogen has penetrated the soil—do they not put us to shame !

When the Tozeur pair returned, fresh news and good came with them of one and another ; especially of a lad who has been under teaching since he was twelve or thirteen, and now shews every sign of growing life—among others, the desire to get away from the fettering there, and be trained.

The spring ended with the incoming of the Millers, the second couple who had offered in the late autumn—and July sees them and the first two hard at work together in the preliminaries of language study. They were shortly followed by the Tozeur lad, who halves his days between study and garden-work. And there are on the horizon, others of the ten for whom we are praying as our share of responsibility for the untilled Arab hinterland.

So we send out this Report with a call from the depths of our hearts to share with us in spirit as we seek to go on with God. Those whom He seems sending to us appear to be qualified for that very work of broadflung ploughing that these lands need. The opportunities for the calling of colporteur-evangelist have never been such as they are now, and it is in this way that the most far-reaching breakup of the fallow ground can be wrought. Right away through the plains and tablelands with their crowded markets, and into the fastnesses of the hill-country, that lies between, full of villages,—away down to the desert towns where the reading men gather, all is lying practically undisturbed in the self-satisfied barrenness of Islam. “Fallow ground” is its exact picture—agelong content with the surface crop of weeds and briars, mingled with a few wild flowers. This is all that nature left to itself can yield.

And we have abandoned them to their own ways, these great lands, instead of sending through their length and breadth the strong keen ploughshare of the Word of God, to break up the false quiet and discern and upturn the thoughts and intents of the hearts into His Light.

To “put our hands to the plough,” at last (not for the tiny visible furrow, but for the regions out of sight) means a fresh era for us. It may be an era of fresh trial of faith, in which we shall need as never before your prayer-help. May God keep our eyes on the goal and our hands on the ploughshare, “made strong by the Hands of the Mighty God of Jacob” upon us: for Christ is the great Ploughman, and we are workers together with Him.

O Christ Who holds the open gate,  
O Christ Who drives the furrow straight,  
O Christ the plough, O Christ the laughter  
Of holy white birds flying after ;  
Lo all my heart's field red and torn,  
But Thou wilt bring the young green corn—  
The young green corn divinely springing—  
The young green corn for ever singing ;  
And when the field is fresh and fair  
Thy Blessed Feet shall glitter there !

For that is the sequel. " Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He come and rain righteousness upon you." And even in these Moslem lands, if we have made ready His way, it may yet be true in the Psalmist's words

" Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly ; Thou settlest the furrows thereof ; Thou makest it soft with showers ; Thou blessest the springing thereof."



## ALGIERS MISSION BAND.

### Statement of Accounts for the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

<i>Payments.</i>		<i>Receipts.</i>	
To Missionary Allowances	8392.70	By Balance in Banks ...	9558.76
„ Representatives of the		„ Cash in Hand ...	14.25
W.A.M.B., America	6770.30		9573.01
„ Travelling ...	2677.55	<b>General Fund :</b>	
„ Rents and Taxes ...	1377.25	„ Donations ...	16166.50
„ Station Expenses, Printing and Various ...	1231.03	„ Sales ...	170.00
	20448.83	„ Rents from Sub-lets ...	70.00
„ Balance in Banks ...	12460.58	„ Various ...	12.00
„ „ Cash ...	351.80	<b>W.A.M.B., America :</b>	
	12812.38	„ Donations ...	6870.30
	Francs 33261.21	<b>Appropriated Gifts :</b>	
	£1330 8s. 10½d.	„ Donations ...	399.40
			23688.20
			Francs 33261.21
			£1330 8s. 10½d

25 Francs = £1.

Examined and found correct, Algiers, 8th October, 1920.

—Henry R. Turner.

## ALGIERS.\* MISSION BAND.

Statement of Accounts for the Half-Year ending June 30th, 1920.

<i>Payments.</i>	<i>Receipts.</i>
To Missionary Allowances 4781.10	By Balance in Banks ... 12460.58
„ Two Representatives of the W.A.M.B., America 6194.00	„ Cash in Hand ... 351.80
„ Rent, Taxes & Repairs 363.30	----- 12812.38
„ Travelling ... .. 355.10	<b>General Fund :</b>
„ Station Expenses (Various) ... .. 881.51	„ Donations ... .. 6032.25
„ Printing ... .. 144.55	„ Products of Native Work ... .. 102.85
<b>Appropriated Gifts :</b>	<b>W.A.M.B., America :</b>
„ Men's Fund ... .. 1912.50	„ Donations ... .. 6194.00
„ Itineration ... .. 208.95	<b>Appropriated Gifts :</b>
----- 14841.01	„ Donations ... .. 5720.45
„ Balances in Banks ... 15993.92	----- 18049.55
„ Balance in Cash ... .. 27.00	Francs 30861.93
----- 16020.92	£1234 9s. 5d.
Francs 30861.93	Balance of General Fund 10261.07
£1234 9s. 5d.	„ Appropriated 5759.85
	„ American nil.
	----- 16020.92

25 Francs = £1.

These Balance Sheets represent about one quarter of the expenditure of the Mission, the Honorary Members of the Staff being responsible for the rest.

Treasurer : Miss F. K. Currie,  
Dar Naama, El Biar, Algiers.

Examined and found correct, Algiers,  
8th October, 1920.—Henry R. Turner.