

New Series Number

6

Algiers Mission Band  
Journal

July  
to Dec. 1922

Sulu  
24  
July has been as usual concentrated on the ups + downs of our Dar Naama compounds.

The daily readings with the men have taken a difficult turn through Si Ali's constant questions; sometimes they are frank + earnest; oftener he half-shuts his eyes + cocks his head, + then we know it is just his innate love of teasing. Si Amar et Touil as we now call the "4 hours" is in a difficult mood also, for he has to turn out of his temporary residence in the orange court, to make room for the Hamadou family, who come for the summer months, + this is not easy for his luxury-loving nature or for his dignity. He has inwardly kicked against it mightily, though he keeps himself outwardly curbed. The masterful spirit of Si Amar the less has been confronted with the equally headstrong character of his wife, with imminent risk of collision, + Aisa also has been having very troubled times with his turbulent little bride. So there is nothing for it but to hold on in prayer till the Master's "Peace be still" shall sound across it all.

Some dropped stitches, so to speak, have been picked up again this month. I will tell of them for the sake of old-time prayer-helpers who faithfully hold on without much news to inspire them concerning one + another of past days. These will remember Si Omar Suisi who was baptised the same week as Si Boualem. He goes on, now that he has broken free from drink, which used to be a snare to him, pathetically steadfast in his solitary path, kept by his work as postman from much chance of the communion of saints. He was up here the other day to paint an Arabic text on Ft. Freeman's van. (he is a first-rate writer) + the fresh touch with him has brought a sense of air under one's prayer wings, so to speak. The other - whose turning to the light was soon after, is Boualem's younger

brother Rabbah. His soul-flax had long been burning very dimly when illness took him last autumn - + then gradually a spark rekindled, + he was braced up by Boualem to leave his ~~elder~~ brother, Si Aïsa, with whom he was living + to betake himself to his mother's house, where Boualem could go freely + read to him. He went down to death's door - they had set up the deathwail around him when life was given back. He is here now convalescing with his wife + two little girls - another step out of the clutches of Si Aïsa, we hope. He still plays the rôle of Pharaoh to his family + "will not let Israel go".

And now we move on again as so often after a deadlock. Si Amar junior has swung out heartily into helping Mr Theobald + Mr Robb in their first attempts at colportage and



A Corner  
of  
a  
Market

evangelisation in the native markets of the neighbourhood. This is the more welcome as it is reckoning with the difficulties. He has had his time of deadly fear of consequences, + has come through it. Thank God.

The other cheer of these days is in the passing into the Good Shepherd's fold, of another member of the Hamadou family - the young wife of a taleb brother-in-law, whose advent up here among the summer visitors had caused us some uneasiness. She poured

out today her newfound joy. "You know I made a vow to God that if my child were healed by the prayer of you Christians, I would belong to Christ, + the child was brought back from death, + now I am one of you - from my heart I have given up Islam. And when I came up here it was like coming up out of a well into the free air, + I could see the light of Jesus on your faces. And now M<sup>rs</sup> Mimi (M. Roche) has told me I had only to let Him in, + I have let Him in, + all the old heaviness has gone away from me, + I feel it is all new!" + her shining eyes bore witness to her words.


This  
16 And in outward things there have been touches of God's providings. We were faced at the prayer-meeting last week with the need of 2000 to 2500 francs as the builder's estimate for the fresh accomodation so sorely needed at Blida, + we brought the thing to God. Within 3 hours the afternoon post brought 2375 francs for that very purpose, all the way from America!

And Saturday brought a letter from A. Kemp, telling of a definite offer of service in the Band from the dear sunny faced Highland girl, Jessie Gray, who has been waiting her mother's full consent, + has now obtained it. The very same post brought its seal in a gift of 550 francs from another American friend of whom we had heard nothing since the Zurich Convention in 1913. Could we doubt that we were to say "Come" to the new volunteer?

5  
6 Blida... - H. Freeman + I have come off here for 2 or 3 weeks quiet; specially with a view to getting through the press a series of 6 story tracts with exciting frontispieces, for French-reading native lads in their early "teens", for whom nothing

is prepared. We have brought along Si Amar junior + his wife, + the close quarters of life along side in a tiny cottage makes us glad, for they do unmistakably understand each other + care for each other, + he has shown real consideration + eagerness to help in any way - but better still is to hear the very lowtoned evening reading + singing in their room, + to see him go off with his Bible under the olives when he has a spare hour or so, + studying it again at night when Zouhra has rolled herself up on her mat + gone to sleep.

One of the things we have been talking over with him is the chances for Christ that lie untouched among the brotherhoods of mystics that sway the religious thought of the desert. He + Si Ali both were brought up in one of them. With all its weirdness + its dangers there is an element of true search for God in this Moslem mysticism, + I feel more + more that we ought to use it as an appeal for the true mysticism, Christ in us. One wonders whether it may not be by some sudden linking of the seekers in these different brotherhoods, such as Sundar Singh has brought to light among the Hindus, a preparatory movement may come towards that "breaking without hand" that is in store for Islam.

 The boys tracts are through + on their way to issue, greatly through a good gift of the A.C.L.S.M. + now it is Alger again + its problems. One of the pressing among them is that the Tozeur brothers want to go down there for the winter, taking their wives with them. Their old mother, who is getting slowly blind, pleaded in the spring that she might see her sons



A corner of the mission house -  
field - Faldia.

while sight remained, + for themselves it is time they left their sheltered lives here - Our part is to shield them by intercession through the test that lies before them, not for their own sakes only, but for the sake of the work there. It is a responsibility on their baby souls to stand there as the first baptized Christians, + compromise on their side would be disastrous to other than themselves. Yet it would be want of faith to hold them back + encourage them in taking cover still: so we are letting them begin their preparations.

Another little onward step is the rudiment of bringing together on Sunday afternoons, some of the lads from the Kabyle station of Tiziouzou who are studying in Algiers. The link is our house-mother, M<sup>lle</sup> Rolland, who hails thence, + their leader here is a young French scout with only a year or so of spirital life behind him. His very youth, with its camaraderie - he is but 17 - may prove an attraction.

Si Amar the Touil has been an anxious problem of late, in the matter of not letting him go slack: he is a splendid teacher for those who have made some progress in Arabic, but for the beginners, for whom we need him, he is far too involved. So we have welcomed his sudden desire to learn French, + he has settled down to it - a gigantic task to his Semitic brain, the more that it cannot be achieved by parrot rote as is their own custom in learning, but by the un-used channels of deliberate comprehension + reflection. Our hope is that if he wins through, he will have a wage-earning power independantly of us, as every convert should.

By one of God's providences, just as we were casting about to see how we could possibly get him taught, there came along, for a night or two's lodging, a well educated retiree-lad,


from that same Kabyle station of Tiziouzou, Kacid by name. He was on his way to France to seek factory work whereby to send help for his small brothers + sisters. This seemed waste of good material in every way, so it has ended in his being installed as French teacher to the Touil, while alongside he can work for a government exam which may set him on his feet. He has a good influence on the other lads in the house, + gets them together in his room for an evening meeting among themselves. And as regards the "4 hours", he seems able to adapt French methods to the native brain to a certain extent.

One evening of these last weeks renewed our certainty that he is worth fighting on for this "4 hours". Si Hamadou sprung upon us that he wanted to bring up to the drawing-room half a dozen well to do Arabs who were dining with him, + he also collected up the "4 hours" with the express purpose that he should talk to them.

Would he do it? would he be true to his colours? "O ye of little faith, wherefore did ye doubt" the Lord must have said - for in a quiet, gentle, collected way he stood firm, + gave such wise answers that we could only thank God with all our hearts. And speaking of it after, he told us very simply how God had taken all fear away, + made him glad to do it.

The last of the summer visitors are gone down now. Among the final ones were the Beit Naama family, + Hamid told us a story of the Frenches that I will put down. It was soon after the dream that brought him the vision of the Crucified. Three hundred natives were surrounded by heavy fire + were told to take cover, + they crouched with hardly a hope

of escape. Hamid said "let us pray" + about 15 went down on their knees, clasping their fixed bayonets. "we will pray in the name of Christ" said Hamid - "No, no - not He - we will pray in the name of Mohammed" said another. "No" answered a third, to whom Hamid had given a gospel - "we will pray in the name of Jesus the Son of Mary" + so they did, + the battle-storm rolled away leaving them untouched. That man passed away soon after in hospital. When the end was almost on him others came round to carry off his various little possessions, but he put the book under his armpit + held it tight till death released him. Surely that hammer of God's word is beginning to find the cleavage in these Moslem hearts, + will end in breaking the rock in pieces.


 Strikes in Marseilles have been holding up those of us who are on furlough, to the detriment of the Rally, which must wait over now till Christmas. Meantime Rue du Croissant welcomes a new Short Service helper, Miss Sheach by name, brought along by A. M. Froy as a fruit of her Scotch meetings. We are specially looking forward to her being able to use her "arts + crafts" handiwork among the boys, for we shall have neither Mr Buckenham or Mr Theobald to fall back upon for them this winter - Mr Theobald + his wife will be off to Tazew next month, to go on with language study + help A. Krebs - + Mr + Mrs Buckenham want also to shut themselves away from English surroundings, + strike out somewhere where they must sink or swim, so to speak, in intercourse with French + Arabs.

The place for this seems to be Colea, a place I spoke of in Aug 1921 as a possible point



of advance. Mr. Buckenham has taken on Mr. Smeeton's little house there this year as an experiment, with a view to its becoming a sub-station later on, or possibly a station, for it has an out-lying population on the coast hills around, as well as in its own steep streets.

Mr. Smeeton has his blind pupils together again, with a fresh impetus in a grant through Dr. Zwerner from the A.C.L.S.M., enabling them to work off copies of one of his tracts in Braille. We are hoping that Arisa may join them again, for his employment has been a puzzle for some months. He had to leave in the summer, the brush shop where he has worked hitherto + finds no outlet for brushmaking on his own account = He has refused 2 or 3 possible jobs as involving Sunday work or other compromises, + has tried peddling with a hand-cart, helped along by a rather dense country nephew, who acts as "dog-boy." The winter weather will soon put a stop to this, + the next thing in view is to start afresh at Braille, with a view if he masters it, to being able to use it in God's service later on.

 The end of this month is bringing another new opening for light-boys away to the West - Relizane has shewn so many clues of late in the direction of Tlemcen, that Mr. Ridley + K. Butler feel that the hour has struck for following up the longing of years, + going to visit it.

Years ago - thirty or more, the C.A.M. had a station there for a time, + then were requested to withdraw on account of the disturbed state at that time, of the Morocco border. It is by far the most interesting town of those parts, for it was a contemporary of Granada, + shared its glories of Moorish philosophy + architecture. It holds its head high still in the herit-

age of its traditions, + we have always held it to be a tough place till Dr Zwemer paid, it a visit in the spring with M. Cook, on his way through from Algiers to Morocco, + he (Dr Zwemer) found a wonderful spirit of listening among the educated men, + felt at the time that a strong + deep impression was being made by God's power.




And it has not faded - "I want to know - I want to understand" - comes again + again as our two go about among the shops. The owners call them in + take books + ask questions + invite them to their homes in a way that seems to indicate a stirring in those proud conservative spirits.


"We are having the most wonderful time" M. Ridley writes, "links + links + links everywhere - such dear people, who seem to have taken us to their hearts straightway, with an astonished sort of interest in our message. - They are wonderfully pure-looking, with fine delicate features + long faces. The houses are like Alger but not so high, with lovely doors + knockers + tiles + skifas - it seems quite unlike any bit of pilgrim work that has fallen to their share as yet.

And now it is the turn for our dear Tazour again. A. Krebs, V. Wood + Mr + Mrs Theobald started last night with such a queer fight to get to the station! - the first rain of the season began as they got into the little curtained cart, making the steep hill down to the town greasy + slippery. The break got out of gear + refused to work - the india rubber


tyre got cut + had to be patched with an old canvas shoe - the horse shied at a gas-light reflection in a puddle + nearly pitched them out, + they had to go at a foot's pace that only just caught the train.


"right persons" will be the number down there in the One communion + fellowship of the Church Militant - the same number that was borne in the ark of old amidst the storm - may they "so pass the waves of this troublesome world" in God's safe keeping!

 Letters from Tozeur tell a curious sequence to the froublous drive to the station. The 1<sup>st</sup> rain came simultaneously at Tebessa, threatening the motor-bus traffic over the rough track of the Tunisian border. After the first few kilometres they broke down + had to pass the night at the lodge of a friendly "garde forestier". Here to their joy another motor-bus picked them up next day, but only to flounder hopelessly in the mud before getting half way, leaving no resource but to pass the night round a fire in the open, stoking it while the native fellow-travellers wrapped themselves in their burnouses + lay asleep around. Next morning came the disappointment of being taken back to Tebessa, + only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt got across to the Tunisian railway line:

 News is good from the new venture at Colea, + justifies the faith of the Buckenham's in launching out alone there: a little Sunday afternoon meeting for the French soon sprang into being, + then a tiny class for Arab boys, with the help of the chalking of pictures + texts which is a never-failing attraction to these colour-loving sons of the South. It nearly came to an untimely end, that boys class, through the dismay of an old neigh-

hour at seeing them about the premises, + they have had to be stowed away in a half underground cellar, but they come all the same, + the difficulty is only to keep the numbers down, so as to ensure quiet. In the visiting direction all goes apace. Mr. Buckenham through wayside talks with the men, gets access to the houses for his wife, + from time to time one or another of us goes over for a few days from Alger to help use the openings won.

 A. Krebs writes - "We have just had such a lovely little Church meeting - At 11 o'clock - an hour late - There was a knock at the door, + in walked Amar + Ali, so clean + fresh in their Sunday best, + at the women's entrance was the mother-in-law with Zehour + Titani - so we started again, + had our whole Sunday service, + such listening to the address, + if you could have heard them sing "When I survey the wondrous Cross." They have had their little meeting every Sunday together - Amar is ready to start here tomorrow + we shall begin to arrange the Bookshop, + shall hope soon to be in full swing:"

 The Miliana Hadji has sent a Christmas letter to his "brethren" here, from which I copy extracts -  
"much greeting from Christians because we enter much into the heart of Christ, + He enters very much into the hearts of those who love Him. We praise + adore Him very much, as we praise His Father

"We are very thankful at this time of fête because we find that there is no Saviour like unto Him, + no other who shed His blood for us. He is the First + the Last + the Final + the Perfect, + none other like Him. He is a Lamp of Life + alive in all places: He talks

"to us in all places + at all times. He talks in all languages. He is present in the night with Christians. He sleeps not... May we again see Him this Christmas, + rejoice as they rejoiced in Bethlehem. Therefore we love to watch on Christmas Eve. Blessed be this fete to you"

God's gift to us here was the incoming of A. Kemp, with her dear helper Mary, + our new worker Jessie Gray. And this winter A. Kemp also comes back in a new capacity, no longer only as a friend of the Band from the first day we landed, but at last on its staff. Thus finding, she + ourselves, the fulfilment of many a year of waiting.

Nothing else specially marked our Christmas time here. We read the Hadji's letter at the Christmas gathering of the natives, + Kaci'b gave an exposition of the meaning of M'imoun's tree, + A'isa + Atamiya made a private fete for this their first Christmas, to which we were all invited... but Bilida sends a blessed little story of their celebration -

"How I wish you could have seen it + heard it" writes M. Roche - "it was one of the nicest things I have ever ~~known~~<sup>known</sup>. First a sort of gasp of surprise + joy, when the curtain was taken down that hid the tree; then a whisper, then a perfect storm of clapping, + all spontaneously they began to sing so sweetly - "El Masih chebb eddirari" - (Jesus loves the little children - All the little children of the world) - wasn't it lovely - it seemed as if they had really realized that the 'great joy' had come from Him."

Belcourt too, in its baby estate, had its beginnings of Christmas-keeping. M. Watling writes - "I'd kiddies in + out all day, for I feel half the fun is the preparation - + I paid - I longed for you + Miss Freeman to see the little place filled with happy peo-

"ple - + dear Fatima (Louissett's cousin) was sent in the nick of time to help me. She is worthy  
"heaps of prayer - you should have seen her quiet, matter of fact way of singing the straight-  
"est messages in French + Arabic."

It is good how the hold increases among the children in that tough Belcourt - M.  
Watling has a real mother heart for them + they run in + out for sheer friendliness;  
+ she uses every bit of the "attrait" that is established between them, for bringing into  
vision the Good Shepherd.

To me the Christmas message this year, has come in the story of the giant telescope  
of the Colorado mountains, + its viewland of space. A generation ago, 30,000 stars or  
so had been marked in the sky chart - now the number photographed mounts away up  
to 300,000,000. Among them is one so huge that the Earth could swing round her orbit  
inside it. And leaving all these sheep in the wilderness, the Lord came down to seek + to  
save this tiny world that had gone astray - the Christ of the 300,000,000 stars.

And that same Lord of all power + might to whom nothing is of small account, has been  
mindful of us in many beautiful ways in the year that is ebbing. It was in January's commit-  
tee that we decided to go forward into a path of definite faith despite an almost empty exchequer -  
+ now we can look back on every need supplied, + a far larger balance in the Mission account than  
when we began the year. And two other onward steps have marked it besides that of Colea - one is  
that the Mascara house has passed into the ownership of it. Freeman, with all that means of stability  
for the work there, the other that the long prayed for increase of accomodation for M<sup>rs</sup> Gayral at Mosta-

ganem has come, though not as yet enough to allow of classes being held.

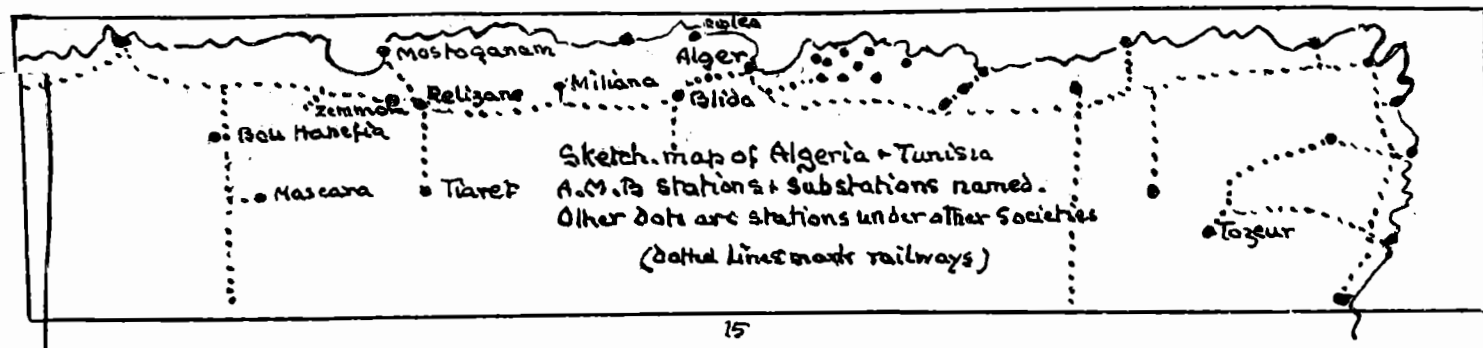
But the main thing that stands out in looking back over the year is the changing spirit among the Moslems, indefinable as yet, but as unmistakable, it seems to us, as the first faint spring-breath.

We have here at Dar Naama a reproduction of a Danish picture. It is a frozen river, grey in its icy deadness, but that breath of the spring is beginning to conquer, + through the midst of it the first flow of the current has begun to gleam, reflecting the purple firtrees + the daffodil sky of dawn in its curve... it is worth, a thousand times over, to spend one's life among the Moslems, to see that hour draw near!

"He sendeth out His Word + melteth them

He causeth His Wind to blow + the waters flow"

His Word + His Wind - that is all these ice-bound lands need. Will you strive in prayer that His Word may be sent, + that His Wind may blow.



Advisory  
Council. England

REV. & MRS HOWE. Finchley. N.  
Sir H. + Lady Proctor. Gt Anwell. Herts  
Mrs Stuart Trotter Chelmsford  
.....

Advisory Council  
America

Awaiting reconstitution, on  
account of the recent deaths  
of two of its Members.

Algerian Mission Band  
America

Mrs J.A. Walker. Sec. 2300  
Dexter St Colorado.

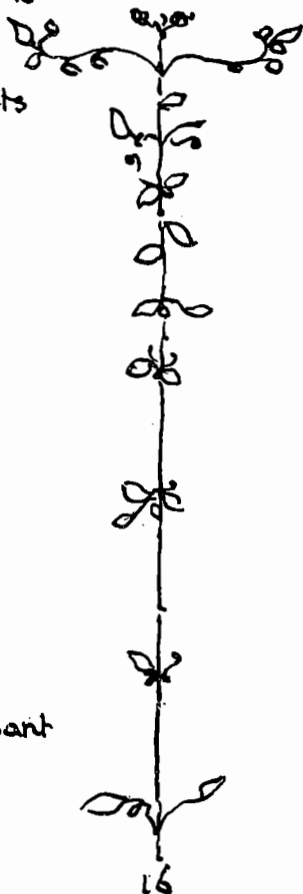
Sec for Prayer Helpers

Mr J.H. Smeeton. 2 Rue du Croissant  
Algiers.

Treasurer

Miss Currie. Dar Naama  
El. Bian. Algiers.

Algiers Mission Band



Location of Workers. Winter 1932

Algiers

(1) Dar Naama El Bian

I. L. Trotter  
S. Perkih  
A. Kemp  
M. + Mrs Pierre Nicouls  
M. Mrs Inery. S. Service

(2) 2 Rue du Croissant

A. Mc Troy  
A. Boulicag.  
Mr Smeeton  
I. Sheach. S. Service  
F. Gray.

(3) Belf Naama

M. Farmer  
J. Gray

(4) Belcourt

M. Watling  
St Eugene  
M. Le Pasteur + Mrs  
Cook.

Colea

(Temporary post at present)  
Mr + Mrs Buckenham

Colida

R. K. Currie  
M. Roche

Orlana

M. D. Grautoff  
I. Nash.

Relizane

M. Ridley  
K. Butler

Sub-stations

Zemmara

Tenret

Mascara

E. H. Freeman  
Senor + Sen.  
Soler

F. Hamman  
Mission helper

Sub-station

Bou Hanefia.

Mostaganem

A. Gayral  
Tozeur

A. Krebs  
V. Wood  
M. + Mrs Theobald

