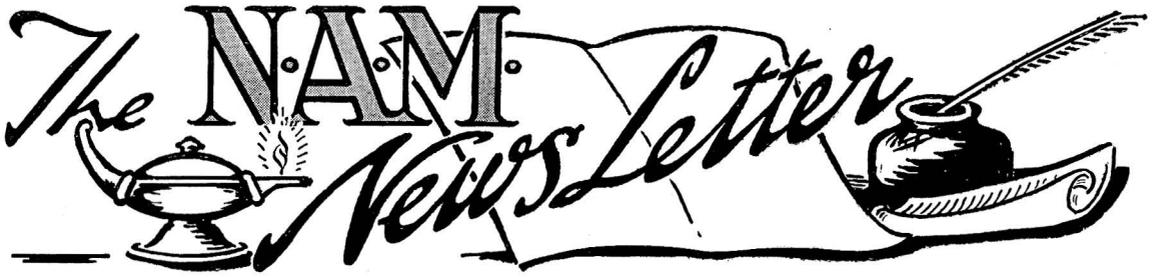


Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



OFFICE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION, 34, BISHAM GARDENS, HIGHGATE, LONDON, N. 6

HON. SECRETARY: OSWALD L. CARNEGIE

AMERICAN AUXILIARY: HON. SECRETARY, DR. HARVEY FARMER, 303, EIGHTH STREET, BRADENTON, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

No. 36

EDITED BY E. J. LONG, F.R.S.G.S.

JULY-AUGUST, 1944



Photo by]

YOUNG BURDEN BEARERS

[E.J.L.

"A man bearing a pitcher of water" (Mark xiv. 13) would indeed be a rarity in the East. From the days of Rebekah (Gen. xxiv. 15), the drawing of water from the well has been the task of the woman (John iv. 7), and the slave (Judges ix. 23)—one of the domestic "chores" that a man would consider beneath his dignity. In the Tunisian village where this photograph was taken quite small girls carry enormous pitchers full of water—burdens that might well tax the endurance of a strong man if carried a considerable distance. Attached to the handle of the water-pot is a loop of very stout rope. When the vessel has been filled, helping hands lift the heavy load on to the child's back, and the loop, passed around the forehead, serves to distribute the weight between the bent head and the stooping back. These are the kind of bairns that throng many a lady missionary's class—eager and winsome listeners, athirst for the Water of Life.

Homecoming of

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Miles

FOR the Editor of the NEWS-LETTER, Monday, June 5th, was a red-letter day, for it was then that he had the privilege of welcoming home, after an almost eight-year absence in Tunisia, his old friend and former missionary colleague, Mr. R. Stanley Miles, together with Mrs. Miles and Muriel, now a charming young lady of sixteen.

Our friends arrived at a North-Country port; and at Sunderland, where they stayed for a fortnight, the kindly "Bethesda" folk took them to their hearts. Most of the members had seen the Tunisia Missionary Film several times, and therefore felt that they knew Mr. Miles very well already.

It is a poignant comment upon the desperate need still prevailing in Tunis City, that Mrs. Miles should have been wearing an overcoat made from an old dyed blanket, and lined with part of a bedspread, whilst her blouse had been conjured out of a pair of curtains. Muriel's coat had once been a table-cover, whilst her blouse had, in pre-war days, been part of her uncle's wardrobe—though described then by a more masculine name! These details are passed on to our readers, not to excite their sympathy, but to make them more grateful for their clothing-coupon allowance—generous indeed when the comparison is made. The knowledge, too, that Mrs. Miles was once "queueing up" for *horse-flesh* at 5.30 in the morning should make us profoundly thankful to our Heavenly Father for the abundant and appetising food that we still enjoy after well-nigh five years of war.

Mr. Miles's ministry in Sunderland was greatly appreciated; neither shall we soon forget the occasion when a large audience listened, with rapt attention, to our brother's recital of his war-time adventures whilst hiding from the Nazis, and to his graphic description of Tunis under German and (later) British occupation. Mr. Miles and the British Chaplain (Rev. Isaac Dunbar) were, it will be remembered, the only two British men to escape capture, and the story of their experiences is a glad tribute to the delivering mercy of GOD.

Homecall of

Monsieur Th. Hocart

ANOTHER link with the early days of pioneering in Kabylia has recently been severed by the Homecall of M. Th. Hocart, a British subject from Guernsey who founded the French Wesleyan Mission and arrived at Bougie in 1886. From there he moved to El Mathen, a Kabyle village higher up the valley where a Mission station was built, and was joined by Mr. Cook, a Frenchman also of British ancestry. For upwards of 13 years M. Hocart laboured diligently amongst the Kabyles, but experienced great difficulty through the hardness of Islam and also French opposition. For the sake of his family he found it necessary to return to France, and latterly joined Mr. Warren in the work amongst the Kabyles in Paris where he was actively engaged, with manifest blessing, in visiting men in shops and cafés. Mrs. Hocart passed to be with the Lord in 1940. Let us continue to pray the Lord of the Harvest to raise up fresh workers to fill the gaps.

I. E. B.

The N.A.M. Annual Meetings

WE are greatly indebted to Miss E. Higbid for the following account of the Annual Meetings, and for furnishing us with a report, which we are printing practically verbatim in a later paragraph, of Mr. Charles Marsh's striking message given at the evening gathering:

"Two very happy gatherings took place on May 25th, when the North Africa Mission held its Annual Meetings at Livingstone Hall. A number of friends were present at three o'clock for the prayer-session, led by the Rev. S. J. Henman, and a blessed season of fellowship together was a preliminary to the well-attended afternoon and evening meetings.

"The Chairman in the afternoon was the Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor, and after his opening remarks the Hon. Secretary, Mr. O. L. Carnegie, referred to interesting features in connection with the work of the past year. Following a note of thanksgiving to GOD for His wonderful provision for financial needs, Mr. Carnegie mentioned the disappointment occasioned by the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miles, who had cabled that they hoped to be in England in time for the Meetings, but on behalf of whom a message had been received stating that they could not manage it. Mr. and

Mrs. Charles Marsh of Lafayette had kindly agreed to take the places of Mr. and Mrs. Miles at both gatherings.

"A new missionary recruit, Dr. Farnham St. John, who is hoping soon to sail for Tangier to relieve Dr. Fraser Anderson, then gave a brief but cheering message. He was thankful to God that he had gone to the University at a time when his generation was challenged by the need of young men and women to go abroad as missionaries. There was a slogan in their Christian Union at the University, 'Evangelise to a finish to bring back the King!'—and he was very thankful that the Lord had shown him, quite recently, that he was to serve Him in one of the hardest mission-fields in the world—North Africa.

"Mrs. Marsh made a moving appeal on behalf of the shut-in women of North Africa. For 17 years she had laboured in Lesser Kabylia amongst the little girls, who, at the age of 12 and 13, are often married and shut away until they are old. She had also worked among the bigger girls, and among the old women, the burden-bearers of the country. In each instance Mrs. Marsh referred to the joy it gives to be able to talk to them in their own language of the wonderful love of the Lord Jesus.

"The afternoon session was brought to a close by a refreshing and challenging message from the Rev. F. John Scroggie upon the theme: 'Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ.'"

Pastor E. J. Long, who presided at the evening meeting, briefly reviewed the past year, and referred to the triple loss North Africa had sustained in the Homecall of Miss Winifred Ross, Mr. Cyril Morris and Pasteur Caron of Algiers. In the Homeland two other loyal friends of the N.A.M. had been taken from us—Pastor Henry Oakley and Miss Una Tighe; whilst the resignation of Mr. S. S. McCurry, after 60 years of devoted labours in connection with the Dublin and Wimbledon Auxiliaries, had deprived us at length of the active co-operation of a zealous friend who had been instrumental in sending to the Mission over £10,000.

"The Chairman then introduced Nurse Madge Hutchinson, a member of his Church at Sunderland, who hopes to leave for Tangier as soon as the travel ban is lifted.

"In the few minutes at her disposal Miss Hutchinson spoke of the privilege of bearing testimony to the faithfulness of an unfailing God. Converted at the age of 10, God shortly afterwards burdened her heart

with the need of the Mission Field. She wanted to go to India, but God had other plans for her. During school and business life God had laid on her the burden of Africa and the Moslem field; but she felt it was too hard, and for 12 months had fought against it. There was no peace of heart, however, until finally she surrendered to His glorious will, and was prepared to go to North Africa when the way opened.

"The concluding address of the evening—following the talk by Mr. Marsh, which is printed below—was given by the Rev. W. Stuart Harris, Secretary of the European Christian Mission. It was a searching talk on Sacrifice, based upon the story of the woman with the alabaster box of ointment. The words of the late Lilius Trotter were quoted: 'The crumbs from our laden tables are not sufficient,' and the *true* spirit of sacrifice illustrated by the moving story of a little girl who gave her most cherished toy, a doll's pram, that it might be sold, and the proceeds used for the Lord's work abroad.

The Cost of Confession

"MR. CHARLES R. MARSH told of the enormous difficulties with which they had been surrounded in Algeria during the Nazi occupation. He made brief reference to the lack of food and clothing amongst the natives, the inability to buy the necessities of life, and people queuing up to buy sewing cotton by the yard! This, with many other difficulties, including the restriction of their movements and thereby the limitation of the Gospel work, made greater their joy when the Allies marched in, and unforgettable the thrill of the first handshake with a British soldier.

"As they watched the long lines of men and the material they take with them into battle, naturally their minds went back to the time, 63 years ago, when *our* pioneer workers went out to that other—spiritual—battle. How few, in comparison, were *their* numbers! . . .

"The Devil always follows two lines: first of all, to *imitate*, and then, to *intimidate*. First there was his own desire, to be 'like the Most High'; then his suggestion to our first parents, 'Ye shall be as gods.'

"We have Satan's masterpiece in North Africa. Many of the Mohammedans are more in earnest than we are. A devoted Moslem will spend an hour every day in prayer. They give. They offer hospitality freely—the best they have. Wherever he is,

NORTH

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND P

				RECEIPTS.								
				GENERAL FUND.			DESIGNATED FUND.			TOTAL.		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.												
Donations	...	...	...	6,607	2	2						
Legacies	...	...	...	2,189	2	7						
Publications	...	...	...	34	3	5						
Dividend on Investment	...	...	...	22	19	0						
										8,853	7	2
FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES.												
SPECIALLY SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES—												
Donations	...	...	...				1,878	18	0			
Legacies	...	...	...				100	0	0			
MEDICAL MISSIONS—												
Donations	...	...	...				855	7	4			
Legacies	...	...	...				1,500	0	0			
Dividend on Investment and Tax refunded for Bed in the Tulloch Memorial Hospital	...	...	...				27	1	2			
Dividend on Investment and Tax refunded for Women's Hospital	...	...	...				126	0	0			
VARIOUS DESIGNATED OBJECTS—												
Donations and Sundries	...	...	...				219	6	6			
GLENNY MEMORIAL FUND—												
Dividend on Investments and Tax refunded	...	...	...				165	11	10			
FROM GENERAL FUND PER CONTRA												
re Sale of Car	...	...	...				125	0	0			
re Salaries of Missionaries' Reserve	...	...	...				500	0	0			
										5,497	4	10
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	...	...	...	8,853	7	2	5,497	4	10	14,350	12	0
BALANCES at Bankers, etc., as at 31st December, 1942												
For Designated Purposes	...	...	...				1,662	2	3			
For General Purposes	...	...	...	2,250	13	7				3,912	15	10
										£11,104	0	9
										£7,159	7	1
										£18,263	7	10

We have examined the above Statement of Receipts and Payments of the North Africa Mission the Missionaries as are available, and certify that, in our opinion, it correctly summarises the Cash T

Finsbury Circus House,
London, E.C. 2.

11th May, 1944.

the Moslem will seek to win others to the faith of Mohammed. Yet, when we have said all that, it is but a counterfeit of Christianity, an imitation, a sham, which cannot set them free from bondage.

"Those who are not deceived are intimidated and kept back through fear. In this land we believe in those principalities and powers of darkness, but our belief in them is largely theoretical: there, it is real. Let me give you some instances.

"Some years ago I had a class of intelligent, educated young men. One day, one of them was called out and shot dead. A few days afterwards another lost his only son. Just a few days later still we were preparing to go home on furlough when terrible news was brought to us. A man, on the point of decision for Christ, who had been coming night after night for instruction, went raving mad. He had ridden 60 miles, revolver in hand, threatening everyone. I tried to visit him. It was impossible to get into touch. We knew some drug had been put into his food which would turn him completely mad.

"In the mercy of GOD the madness only persisted three weeks, and then the Government gave our friend back his responsible position, which would not have happened had he been insane. Put yourself in his place. Do you think such a man will ever come out openly for Christ? Would he not for ever remain a secret believer? He wrote sending his greetings to the Christians, and asking for Scriptures. They took him right away from our district to another part of the country.

"Another instance. B—— was a young boy who came at the age of nine, almost blind, a white film growing over his eye. I treated him, and gradually the film dissolved, and his eyes opened. The eyes of his spiritual understanding were enlightened also. As I read 'The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin,' he said, 'That is what I believe in my heart, that Jesus died for me.' He was only a boy; they allowed him to come, and he continued week by week. But every year at the Fast of Ramadhan he was given 25 strokes on the soles of his feet. He had to run 20 miles into the interior to get away from the persecution. Half his face was black and blue as a result of the treatment he had received from his mother. They knew that when he came to us he would have something to eat afterwards, and break the Fast.

"Though they kept him away for weeks at a time he always came back. When he

wanted to be baptised the mother refused her consent, but later on we had the joy of putting him through the waters of baptism. He said it was the happiest day for him; but, alas! it did not last long. He was stricken down with a terrible disease. There was no iodine, cotton-wool, etc., to be had, but I cared for him as best I could. Yet it was all to no purpose. After about a month of suffering he went Home to be with his Lord. We have no proof, but I strongly suspect that dear boy paid for his baptism with his life.

"Thus, shall we try and look at things as GOD sees them in North Africa? Can we still speak of triumph? What is to be our attitude this evening? There are some who would counsel the withdrawal of all Christian forces from the Moslem field, saying 'Let us go to the heathen.' Some think we should change our message, and speak of One Who is a Prophet instead of a Crucified Saviour. That we dare not do. My answer is, 'I had no choice: He called, I followed.'

'I heard the call, Come follow!—that was all . . .

Will you not follow, if you hear Him call?'

even if in the difficult field of North Africa?

"Thank GOD, there is another side to the picture. Thank GOD, we *can* preach the Gospel. There are open doors on every hand. Away in the villages, when we go to reach the men we find open doors on every hand. Five hundred of these villages have already been visited, but there 300,000 in our Commune and the one adjoining! How can we go back often to the same village? There is a great need for new workers away in North Africa, ready to take the Sword of the Spirit and to give the Gospel to these people.

"Another way in which you can help at home is by the use of the weapon of prayer—'praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.' These Moslems get up at 4.30 a.m. Five times a day they pray. May the Lord help *us* to go on praying earnestly, continually, day by day. It is not sufficient just to pray, 'GOD bless the missionaries.' Islam is defying our King, and we have to meet the challenge on our knees. Do not let us just sit still and do nothing about it. GOD expects each one of us to do our part in meeting the challenge of Islam.

"'Thanks be unto GOD Who always causeth us to triumph in Christ.'"

News in Brief

The Council of the N.A.M. have accepted, with profound regret, the resignation of **Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Marsh**. Our friends, who have a record of long and devoted service in our ranks, have expressed a preference to continue their labours in North Africa, God willing, in association with the "Brethren," with whom they have for many years been in fellowship. Grieved though we are to part with them, our loving wishes accompany our brother and sister. We shall do our best to console ourselves with the knowledge that the "loss" is a purely technical one, and that the splendid work in and around Lafayette will continue, under God's blessing, as heretofore.

Mrs. F. M. Webb, who was for a time in the London Homeopathic Hospital for treatment, is now out again, and regaining strength, for which we praise the Lord.

It is gratifying also to learn, from Dr. Anderson, that "**Yvonne Bocking** is convalescing satisfactorily after her rather acute attack of typhoid fever."

Miss Ward, too, we are thankful to know, is fully restored to health, and has undertaken work with the National Young Life Campaign, in Kensington.

Yet a fourth most encouraging "health note" comes from Fez, from which station **Mr. Warren** writes: "I think I can really say that I am much better. I can walk much farther without undue fatigue, and so am hopeful for the future."

Our Hon. Secretary was delighted to welcome at his home recently our "Chaouia Tribe" Missionary, **Mr. Charles Cook** of Menâa. Friends will be interested to learn that Mr. Cook, as a war-time Chaplain, is now attached to the French Division in this country. When last we had tidings of our brother he had just made contact with Miss Dew, of Rabat. Speaking of the missionary prospect in North Africa, Mr. Cook expresses his conviction that the young people of the French Protestant Church out yonder are now taking "a much greater interest in missionary effort on behalf of the natives."

Miss M. E. Chipperfield, a trained nurse who has already been engaged in missionary work in North Africa, and whose knowledge of Arabic is therefore an additional qualification, has volunteered to act as a relief nurse at the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier. Her offer of service has been gratefully accepted.

It was a delight to learn that **Mr. and Mrs. Twaddle's daughter Jean** had won two prizes for a School Essay on "Fire." She was first for Lanarkshire in her year and fourth for Scotland. No fewer than 67,000 sat for the examination. Her prizes totalled eight Savings Certificates. Heartiest congratulations, Jean!

News from the Field

Mr. P. Padilla of Tangier writes: "Our Gospel Meetings continue to be very well attended. New people sometimes come in, and although all do not continue to attend, they have at least had the opportunity of hearing the Message of Salvation.

"On Good Friday we had a special meeting. . . . The Message of the Cross was listened to with attention and reverence. Several had come for the first time. There were 67 present in all, and each received a Gospel leaflet on leaving. All went away happy and thankful to the Lord for His presence and blessing. One of our members brought her husband for the first time. She was so happy.

"This year one of our own children, Marina Vidal, aged 16, has taken the Sunday School Class. For me it has been a rest; for her, an opportunity of speaking to the children."

Our brother desires special prayer for Pepe, one of the young men who has been called up for military service.

Miss E. Brookes of Gafsa has gone to join **Miss Ada Clack** at Nabœul. The resumption of work at this station will doubtless be fraught with a variety of difficulties, and it is certain that our sisters will greatly value our remembrance in prayer.

Miss Widmer sends us an annual report which makes it clear that the past year has been a very strenuous one for her. During the first six months of 1943 she was able to treat 2,923 patients, not including children. There were 26 maternity cases, a number of these involving three hours or so of travel to distant villages. "Once the curiosity of the women has been satisfied," writes Miss Widmer, "there is always a good opportunity to get quite a crowd to sit down and listen. They ask to be taught." Our sister is occasionally brought into touch with those who heard the Message many years ago from the lips of former missionaries. These dear folk can still repeat verses of hymns accurately, and recount favourite Bible stories.

We in the Homeland do well to keep on praying for blessing upon long-buried Seed!

Mr. S. Arthur writes from Azazga: "The classes here on Sunday, and especially on Thursday, are encouraging. One of the bigger girls seems to have made a very definite decision, and the family is not showing any opposition . . .

"The Thursday evening Bible study for *unbelievers* is also proving its value. We too often couple Bible study with Christians, but why should one not study certain subjects

with the outsider, and let them say what they think, as the subject is reviewed? It can always be an evangelistic meeting at the same time!"

Miss Grace Sharpe, writing from a wooded hill-top just outside Settat, where she was enjoying a period of rest at the home of Miss Buxton and Miss Reed, says: "Eleven of the Lord's dear children came on Easter Monday, and we had games, in which all joined, and were so happy. Then we had refreshments—nuts, dates, figs, etc.—and were able to distribute little packets of sweets and chewing-gum. (How they like the latter!)"

"Two of the Christian women arranged to carry on the celebrations in their own homes, and the next day we were invited to go and conduct a programme of singing and reading in the court of a neighbour's house. So some who had never heard the beautiful story of the Resurrection heard it then, whether they wanted to or not. There was at least one veiled listener on the roof-top . . ."

Friends will remember that Miss Sharpe is describing work that she shares with her colleague, Miss Irene Dew of Rabat.

Miss Low and Miss Bradbury are holding themselves in readiness for their voyage home. Recently they were cheered by a visit from Bishop Morris, of the B.C.M.S. Meanwhile the work is being carried on as usual, as far as this is possible.

Mr. Shorey of Algiers writes in his usual interesting strain regarding well-known native believers, such as Lekheder and Beriki. In spite of many difficulties, these brethren are going on faithfully with their Lord.

"The food supply in this country," adds Mr. Shorey, "still leaves very much to be desired. Our bread ration is very low, and potatoes are not easy to obtain. It is still difficult to get new clothing of any sort, or footwear . . . but 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us,' and we believe He will continue to do so until the end!"

Finance

The Council of the Mission have thought it advisable to send with this issue of the NEWS-LETTER the detailed Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December, 1943, instead of an abbreviated Balance-Sheet as was done last year.

It is with profound gratitude to GOD that we record considerable increases in gifts and legacies to both our General and Designated Funds during the past year.

Two items under "Receipts" call for a word of explanation. The £125 for "Sale of Car" has been earmarked to help replace Mr. Miles's car when he returns to the field after his furlough.

The £500 "Salaries of Missionaries Reserve" has been set aside to cover claims from the authorities for payments made by British and American Consuls to our workers during the Axis occupation of North Africa. Both these amounts appear as contra items under "Payments."

The balance in General Fund at 31st December, 1943, included a sum of £2,000 specially contributed towards expenses in 1944 by a much esteemed and long-standing subscriber to the funds of the Mission.

Post-war expenses will inevitably be on a higher scale than at present, as most of our missionaries who have been at home during the war have engaged in remunerative service, and consequently have not been supported from Mission funds.

Increased allowances, and travelling expenses of home-coming and out-going workers will be heavy items, for which provision will be needed in the future.

The Council take this opportunity of thanking all who have shared with them by prayer and gift in sending the Glad Tidings to needy souls in North Africa; and are grateful to those who have made covenanted gifts, which, at the present rate of Income Tax, double the value of their subscriptions to the Mission.

O. L. C.

Autumnal Gathering

It is proposed to hold a Special Meeting, D.V., on Thursday, September 14, at 6 p.m., in the Livingstone Hall, Westminster, when Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Miles will have an opportunity of giving some account of their experiences. Kindly make a note of the date.

Special Notice

Mr. R. Stanley Miles, of Tunis, recently returned from North Africa after an absence of nearly eight years, and with a remarkable story to tell of the Lord's delivering mercies, will be available for deputation meetings this autumn, D.V. Please apply to The Secretary, N.A.M. Headquarters, 34, Bisham Gardens, Highgate, London, N.6.