


Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The N.A.M. News Letter



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

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GENERAL SECRETARY, ERNEST J. LONG

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No. 55

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

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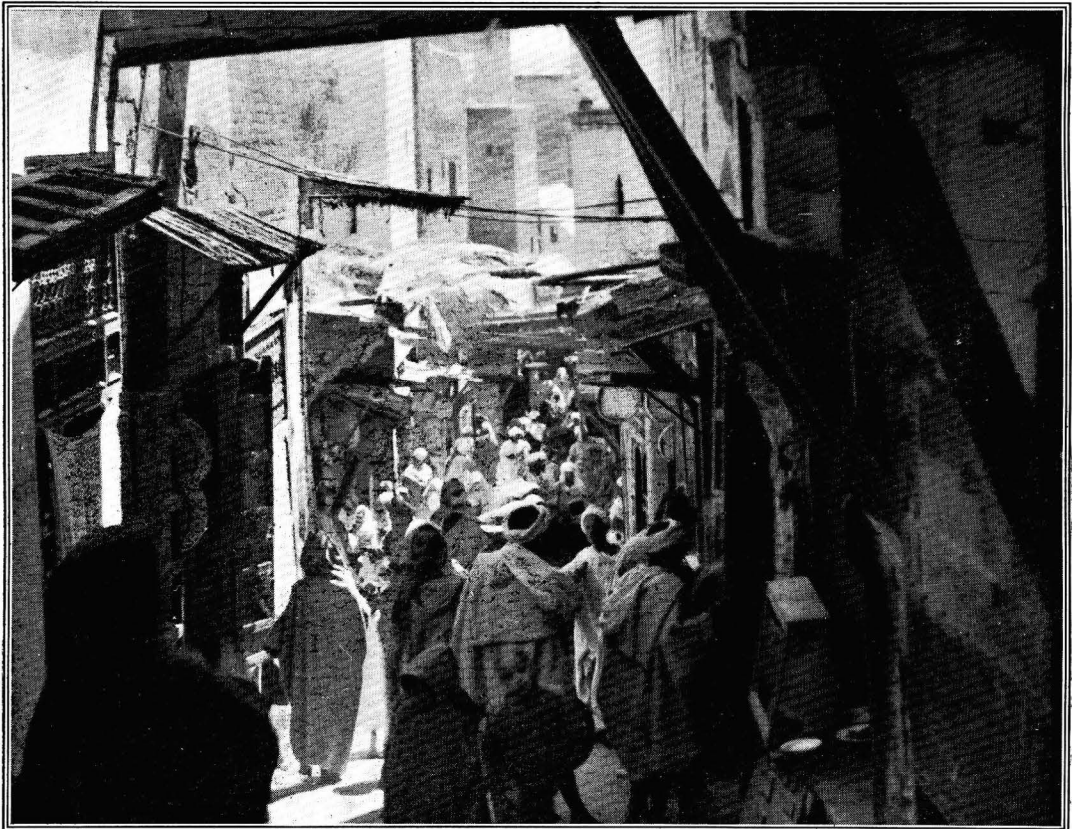


Photo by]

OLD FEZ.

[E.J.L.

"In the Old Town no wheeled traffic is allowed. Do not imagine that this leaves everything that is to be desired for the pedestrians! 'Balek!' ('Look out!') coming from the lips of donkey or mule drivers, is the most well-used word in the streets of Fez. Donkeys always seem to have the priority. If you do not move of your own free will, the donkey will move you; for neither he nor his driver will consider you in the least. The little native shops are for the most part just the same as they have been down the centuries. You may still see the potter sitting at his wheel, the pots baking in the sun . . ."

(See "Fez—Ancient and Modern," Part II, by Miss Grace Lincoln, on Page two.)

Page one

A Visit to Tripoli

I SPENT three very happy weeks in Tripoli. It was interesting to see it under British rule. It has wide, beautiful streets and a fine promenade along the sea front, with magnificent gardens. These are all kept in splendid order by the authorities. In some places they have made circular islands to regulate traffic, and, in keeping with the rest, these islands are little gardens, so one sees a flower bed in the middle of the road. The North Africa Mission house is in the native quarter. It is the one to which missionaries first went when Tripoli was under Turkish rule, and from which our workers were expelled by the Fascists in 1936.

“Now the house has been bought (by Dr. Liley’s war savings: *Ed.*) for the medical work, which is growing far beyond the Doctor’s strength. He often looks very weary, but he is full of zeal.

“The patients pass first of all into the waiting room, arranged as a meeting, where Mrs. Liley teaches them hymns and gives them Gospel lessons. After that, she takes a first look, and arranges them in groups according to their complaints—all the bad eye cases together, and so on; which is a great help to the Doctor.

“IF THEY HAD A NURSE, SHE COULD DO THE DRESSINGS, AND THIS WOULD BE A GREAT RELIEF. Mrs. Liley does her shopping, cooking and household supervision as well as helping in the dispensary. How she does it all I don’t know; but she has abundant vitality, which keeps her going.”—Miss K. M. E. Gotelee, Tunis.

We earnestly pray that these paragraphs may be used of GOD to bring the Doctor’s urgent need of reinforcements to the attention of one or two young nurses seeking guidance from the Lord as to their future sphere of service for Him.

Fez—Ancient and Modern Part II

It is not an unusual sight in this ancient city to see veiled women wearing sun glasses and gloves, shoes and handbag of European design—and all to match. Neither is it unusual to see young men and women out together—yes, even arm in arm. And this is Fez, where a few years ago such a thing would have been almost criminal.

Yes! there is a cinema; and to this we turn to find the cause, oftentimes, for such a turn in affairs. It is the sort of place which savours of hell itself as one passes. Not that one does not rejoice in the greater freedom of these days, but such freedom is more often than not linked with so much evil.

From an educational point of view there are still the mosque schools, evident by the sound of the noisy repetition of uncomprehended lessons, but there are also the French schools for both girls and boys which are well attended. Some even go to the **Lycee** (high-school).

Fez is waking up! In spite of all that is still ancient it is stretching out to that which is modern on every hand. Our great sorrow is that it is receiving everything of advancement that this world can give, but still passes by and rejects the only One Who can in any wise satisfy the human soul. Its people do not want the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They know little or nothing about it, and the little they do know is false. “How shall they believe on Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

There is a great need of Christian literature; and why not an actual bookshop? Above all, there is the great need for more fellow-labourers in prayer. Will you join us until, even in Fez, there stands a Christian community which will withstand the powers of Islam by the Power of the Blood of the Lamb and GOD’S Holy Spirit?—Miss Grace Lincoln, Fez, Morocco.

Ordinary Days

No. 1.

It was again Friday, the day when we reckon on getting a few extra men to sit and listen to a Gospel message.

At 6.30 a.m. I joined the bus going out towards the mountains, and was carried as far as a cross-road a mile or two from the group of villages and hamlets I was out to visit. The sun was already hot and the road treeless. A good topee, however, kept my head cool.

At the first village, very few men were about, although the first two looked pretty scared to see me (they were carrying between them quite a load of sugar, definitely “black market”!). At the mosque we managed a short meeting with one or two men who were sitting there and some others who were passing by—very much like some of your open-air meetings in the Homeland, except the singing.

An S.O.S. from our Oldest Missionary

WE feel sure that friends will read the following lines with special interest and sympathy, penned as they were (on July 4th) by our oldest Missionary, Miss F. M. Banks of Casablanca, who has spent over fifty-nine years in Morocco as a worker in the ranks of the N.A.M.

Miss Banks is 85 years of age, and is much concerned that the roof of the Hall (which shelters the European work) should be repaired before the autumn rains begin.

“ We are praying much for funds to have the house properly done up ; and now we have no gate in front of the Hall. The former one was so old that it had to be broken up, and they are asking about £9 for a new one. Also, before the rains come, the Hall roof will need to be repaired and tarred. It let in the rain badly last Spring, and now the Hall is so clean and fresh, it would be sad to have it all dirtied with rain. It has been no trouble for 26 years, so no wonder it needs repairs. The estimate for the roof alone is £60, and that is not an over-charge. Including the house, we need £100. May the Lord mercifully send in the money. The place is very valuable, and it is sad to see it running down.”

Livingstone College

WE gladly respond to a friendly invitation to draw our readers' attention to Livingstone College (Leyton, London, E.10) which, for over fifty years, has been teaching elementary medicine and surgery to missionaries proceeding to isolated stations.

During the war the College was badly damaged by bombs and land-mines, but it has been repaired and reopened, and is once more at work under the superintendence of its new Principal, Dr. Stanley Hoyte—C.I.M. missionary in China for over thirty years.

Admission to the College is for those who intend to become missionaries, preferably those who have already been accepted by a Missionary Society. The full Session is nine months (October to June) ; and the Fees are £35 *per term* for board, lodging and tuition ; tuition only, £15 per term.

Moving on to the second village we found an old man in charge of things. He allowed the women and the children to gather round, and out came one of my big, folding Scripture pictures, mounted on cloth. In villages where one is well known it is possible, occasionally, to have such an audience, especially, as was the case that day, when all the men are out of the village (market, café, work in the fields, etc.). Immediately after this meeting, I became a dentist and extracted a number of teeth, one of our side-lines ! On my way back to the main road, the village blacksmith asked in a stern voice if I had any business in his village !

I then made for a native café in a market place, where I had to drink one very black coffee with lots of sugar, and two cups of tea flavoured with mint—also very sweet. The explanation of this orgy is simple. When I am asked what a patient owes me for an extraction, I generally reply, “ A coffee, when I come your way.” This provides me with a constant supply of coffee and tea when travelling !

In this place the meeting was conversational, as it is rarely possible to get all the men in a café to drop their dominoes to listen to the Word, although I have seen a friendly café-keeper stop all the games during our visit.

A call at the Post Office and an interesting chat with the Post-master (who claims to be a Christian), and we climbed the hill to a village with very peculiar memories for me. It was here that I saved a boy's life by getting him quickly to the Doctor, and it was here that I later met a fine bit of social solidarity. The father of the boy stood up before all the men of the village and said, “ This is the man who saved my boy's life. We are going to give him a present, to which every house will contribute. Send along and find eggs, each one of you.” The result was about 120 eggs. Need I add that I am now considered as a Freeman of the village ! Young men and boys by the dozen packed into the meeting place, and many of them carried away Scripture portions at the close of our talk.

A snack by the roadside (it was 1 p.m.), and then half an hour with the two schoolmasters, one of whom came to England in 1929 for the Jamboree. After which it was time to meet the bus as it returned to Azazza.

Preacher, colporteur, dentist, tramp : it's all in an ordinary day's work !—**Mr. S. Arthur, Azazza, Algeria.**

There is also a special, intensive twelve-day Course on "Elementary Medicine and Hygiene and Care of Health in the Tropics." This Course is given three times a year—in January, July and September.

Correspondence should be addressed to: The Principal, Livingstone College, Knotts Green, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, London, E.10.

Missionary Convention

THOSE who remember the outstanding success of last September's great Missionary Lantern Meeting in the Caxton Hall ("Into All the World") will be glad to learn that a similar Missionary Convention has been arranged for

Tuesday, September 16th, and that the Caxton Hall has once again been booked.

At 3 p.m., GOD willing, a public meeting for Guided Intercession will be led by Mr. F. D. Bacon; at 5.15 the Rev. S. A. Knowles will give another of his incomparable demonstrations of "Flannelgraph"; whilst at the evening Lantern Meeting (at 6.30), a composite Lecture on "Effective Missionary Witness" (in which five missionary speakers will take part) will describe the vital contribution towards world evangelisation made by Educational Work, Christian Literature, Medical Work, Evangelistic Work and Church Establishment.

The Closing Message will be given by the Rev. Andrew MacBeath, B.D.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS

WE give a warm invitation to our friends residing in or near London to have fellowship with us at our Annual Meetings—to be held once more, God willing, at

THE LIVINGSTONE HALL

near ST. JAMES'S PARK UNDERGROUND STATION

THURSDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1947

TIMES OF MEETINGS

3 p.m. Prayer Session.

3.30 p.m. (Chairman, the Rev. E. J. POOLE-CONNOR);

6 p.m. (Chairman, the Rev. HAROLD W. FIFE, of Worthing;

CLOSING SPEAKER

the Rev. GODFREY ROBINSON, B.A., B.D.)

It is expected that Missionaries will give Messages at both gatherings.