

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The NAM News Letter



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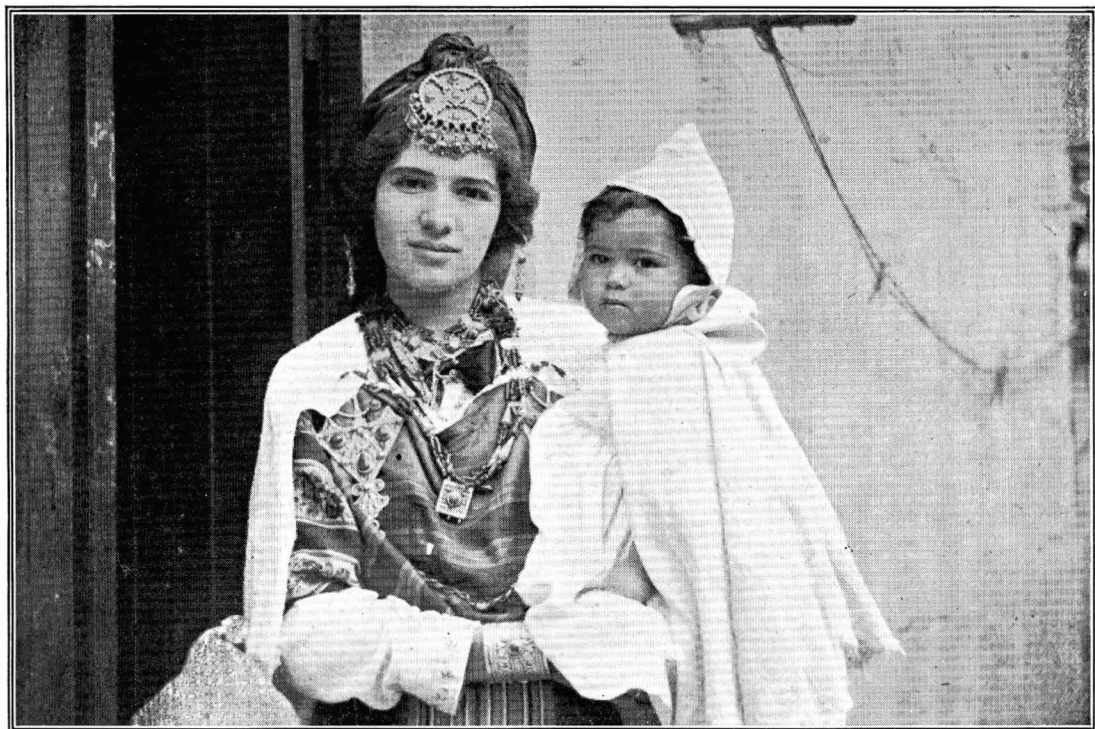


Photo by]

[Rev. T. J. P. Warren

A KABYLE CONVERT OF FORMER DAYS

Today's Challenge in North Africa

FOR prayer and practical support to be at the highest level, it is vital that our friends should have in their minds a picture of the Field as a whole. It would probably not be questioned that the North African Field, in some ways at least, represents

one of the focal points in the spiritual battle on earth. Our missionary work must therefore be waged as we would conduct a battle that we knew to be bitter in intensity and vital in outcome.

The Field for which the North Africa Mission accepts responsibility from the Lord of the Churches is approximately 2,000 miles in length. Several Missions of various sizes are at work in

part of this vast sphere. The Algiers Mission Band, as is well known, works over a wide area in Algeria. The Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society has several stations in Morocco. The Church Mission to Jews maintains schools in Tunis, and our colleagues among the Brethren have a number of stations, especially in Kabylia. There are, in addition, the workers of the Southern Morocco Mission in the area of Marra-kech, and also a number of American missionaries of the Methodist and other Missions.

In paying heartfelt tribute to the work of all these agencies and thanking God for the contribution they are making to the spread of the Gospel throughout North Africa, as well as expressing appreciation of the unity and co-operation of all these bodies, it needs to be borne in mind that only the N.A.M. so far has stations throughout North Africa. In Libya we are the only Protestant Mission at work, and this is almost equally true of Tunisia; so that, where our own forces are depleted, it is the unpalatable fact that Gospel work in North Africa is suffering from retrenchment. It is the blunt truth that every Christian ought to know that there are many parts of North Africa today that are being far less adequately evangelised than was the case 30 years ago. Indeed, there are large areas and great towns where for years there were Mission Stations, but in which there is today no witness at all.

Let us look at a few facts. In Libya we have Dr. and Mrs. Liley, recently joined by Miss Wilberforce. If we take a map and measure the area they are called upon to evangelise we at once see that this is an impossibility. With a car some itinerating could be done, but there is only one small N.A.M. car in the whole of North Africa—and that car is nearly 2,000 miles away in Tangier. Our friends in Tripoli are doing a splendid piece of work, but it ought to be on the heart of God's people that Libya, as a whole, is quite unevangelised. The well-known towns of Tobruk, Benghazi, etc., have no missionary witness even contemplated in the immediate future.

Moving up into Tunisia we find an equally solemn picture. Gafsa, Gabès, Sousse, Sfax and Kairouan, all towns of some considerable size, were once occupied by missionaries, but

are now untouched and quite beyond the range of our small but gallant band of missionaries with bicycles as the only means of transport.

So one could go on cataloguing facts that should speak volumes to the spirit sensitised by the love of Christ into a longing for every creature to hear the Gospel. The urgent need for reinforcements in Algeria, and the knowledge that we have no male missionary in the whole of French and Spanish Morocco should stir us to prayer that lays hold on God for the recruits, the means of transport, and the obvious provisions in other directions that must be forthcoming if we are to do only our duty to this great Field.

Many friends have asked if we felt discouraged by a survey of the Field. Not at all. To see our grand team of missionaries keeping on despite all the bitterness of the opposition, the paucity of results, the quite inadequate staffing of almost every station, and the complete absence of suitable transport, is very far from discouraging. It is, however, intensely challenging; and I feel that many Christians need to face this challenge realistically. We must have many recruits of the right type for the Field. We must have some adequate means of transport. Above all, we urgently need prayer warriors who can pray through until these granite walls of Islam are pierced and the Lord Jesus Christ sees there in North Africa the travail of His soul, and is satisfied.

Already there is much to encourage. To our Mission there is being sent a steady trickle of splendid candidates. And it equally rejoices us to know that this is true of our friends in the Algiers Mission Band.

Who will now join us in increased, intensive prayer that the Lord Himself will build His Church in North Africa?

(Rev. Harold W. Fife.)

Impressions of the Tizi-Ouzou Conference

“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever”: such was the glorious theme of the Conference for Native Christians. . . .

The organisation was wonderful, the surroundings ideal, the beauty of the scenery an inspiration in itself.

The President of the Conference was M. Maoudj, a Kabyle Christian from Blida.

"Yesterday" was the subject of the studies for Monday. Mr. Griffiths of Tazmalt dealt with this as a Bible Study, emphasising the Names of God as expressing His changeless character from Genesis to Revelation. Mr. Arthur of Azazga gave a practical study concerning the stones of yesterday on which we build, and gave a list of the men and women who "died in faith" for North Africa.

On Tuesday Mr. Pearce of Cherchell dealt Biblically with "Today." He reminded us that the Apostle Paul, who bade us be "imitators" of himself, had no greater advantages than we possess; and that we, like him, might follow the faith of those who have gone before.

Messrs. Young and Brès, of Algiers, appealed for definite decisions for Christ, and seven responded—some of them praying very simply in the prayer-session that followed.

"For ever," or "Eternally," was dealt with by Mr. Marsh of Lafayette. After commenting upon the text in its context, he took us through the Epistle to the Hebrews, pointing out the Eternal things, and the recompense we shall have from the Lord when He comes.

Mr. Heggoy of Algiers stressed the native Christians' need of concentrated Bible Study—a need that could only be met through what Wesley called "Classes" or, to use the modern word, "Cells." Bible Schools were needed, but this did not necessarily mean the acquisition of large buildings.

M. Rolland of Tizi-Ouzou (upon whose premises the Conference was held) skilfully summed up the messages of the whole Convention—"binding the sheaves," as he called the process.

Finally, at an informal gathering testimonies were invited, and several older Christians (two of them husbands of former Cherchell women) witnessed to their faith in Christ. Then the younger believers were encouraged to follow their example, and M—— of Cherchell led the way. It was indeed a moving time as we listened to the simple words of one after another of North Africa's youth who are now "for Christ," and who pledged themselves to seek to bring their loved ones to the Saviour.

(From "Junior Missionary.")

What a Face!

I wonder when somebody will think of carrying Nationalising tendencies to the point of issuing a Control of Faces Order?

Meanwhile, we all have a right to a face each. Some have two—or so it would appear—while others sometimes wish that they could give away the one they have! I am sure there must be at least one other person like that besides myself in Paris. I came to this conclusion one sunny morning recently as, full of the joys of Spring, I turned over the pages of the large Bible in front of No. 15 Rue des Orchidées to the appropriate place.

The brilliant rays of the morning sun were on the showcase which holds the Bible and a book of Meditations; and as the back of the case forms a kind of mirror, there was a blaze of reflected light. Suddenly, in this radiant framework appeared the face of a man. Not surprising, of course, that the reflection should appear—but what a face! It was a dark, glowering, disturbing face; an evil face that cast a shadow over the bright morning. (No, Mr. Editor, not my own face!) What that face needed was a good polish on the inside. The sun did not brighten it, and the mirror did not improve it.

I couldn't help wondering if the owner would have stayed to look in the mirror had I not been there. For all sorts of people do. Old folk, young folk, beggars and better-class men, the wood-man, the gas-man, and many another. Occasionally we surprise them as we sally forth from the Mission House, or as we glance prayerfully at them from the first-floor window, or watch them from a vantage-point in the street, fearing to re-enter our own home lest we disturb a reader. They are a timid race, these mirror-gazers! Or most of them. The woodman asked me for Gospels for each of his six children, with a great show of heartiness; only he then proceeded to try to cheat me over a purchase of wood. However, he took the books that I carefully selected for his family.

Of course, what we hope is that the mirror-gazers will gaze into the Mirror that does not lie and, seeing their spiritual portrait, may take appropriate action by testing the transforming power of Redeeming Love. Pray that along the track of the hasty glance a ray of conviction may shoot.

Some of the countenances which the mirror of our case reflects are, of course, quite pleasant ones. For instance, that of the young French nanny who rang the bell the other day to ask my wife for a pocket Bible. She was a Christian recently arrived in the *quartier*, and was cheered and comforted to find others who love the Word of Life so close at hand.

Will you pray that the joy in the presence of the angels may be added to from time to time as the meaning of the Holy Bible comes home to unholy hearts? Pray, too, for the facilitating of the printing of more French and other Bibles, for the need is very great and urgent.

(Rev. C. W. Procter, Paris.)

Libya for Christ

Once men of old, with hearts aflame
With love for Christ, their Lord and King,
Spread o'er these lands His Precious Name—
Made Libya with His praises ring.

But love grew cold when schisms came,
And, 'midst men's voices, His was stilled ;
And, to His people's endless shame,
His last command was not fulfilled.

So here Mohammed now holds sway ;
The Crescent, pale against the sky,
Claims Islam's night for Gospel Day ;
And men believe the devil's lie.

Who now will hold the Torch on high,
For love of Him enduring shame ?
Who love of self will crucify
That here may triumph Jesus' Name ?

(Miss J. Wilberforce, Tripoli.)

A Further Recruit

At the Council Meeting held on July 6th Miss Winifred Sellwood was accepted for language training in Paris.

A nurse by profession, and with a heart-interest in North Africa begotten at a lantern lecture many years ago, Miss Sellwood has already reached matriculation standard in French. It is therefore proposed to send her to France for Bible Training, so as to assure a simultaneous mastery both of the Word of God and of the French language. We commend our sister to our readers' prayers.

Two New Council Members

Our most faithful Council Member, the Rev. S. J. Henman, is no longer strong enough to attend the Committee Meetings, but his gracious and helpful letters abound in wise counsel. For Pastor Percy Smart, too, the burden of years and domestic responsibilities combine to make attendance practically impossible.

It is with great gratitude to God, therefore, that we welcome to our ranks two new members. Mr. (formerly Captain) L. B. Mostyn Davies is an intimate friend of Dr. Liley, and served (as Intelligence Officer) in Tripoli during the War. We have no more regular attendant at our monthly Headquarters Prayer Meeting.

Captain B. Alexander, a retired banker, is a member of the East London Tabernacle, and has had considerable experience among "Crusaders." With his missionary-heartedness, his business experience, and his shrewd judgment,

he will be of the greatest help to us. To both of these brethren we have already extended a most cordial welcome.

A Heart-felt "Thank You"

The response to our "S.O.S." for old linen has been simply magnificent. We have now a large stock for distribution, not only to the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, but to Dr. Liley of Tripoli, and to our Dispensaries at Tetuan and Settat. All parcels have been gratefully acknowledged already, but we desire to express afresh in these columns our very warm appreciation of this prompt and generous co-operation.

Annual Valedictory Meetings

These will be held, God willing, at the Livingstone Hall, Broadway (opposite St. James's Park Underground Station), on Monday, September 27th, at 3.30 and 6.30. (Afternoon Prayer Session at 3 p.m.)

At the evening gathering the Chair will be taken by Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the closing message will be given by the Rev. Godfrey Robinson, B.A., B.D.

Please help to make these Meetings widely known !

Our Sick Friends

When our sister, Miss Marjorie Marsh, arrived home from Djemaa Sahridj in July she was very, very tired, and the doctor ordered complete rest. A day or two later she collapsed with partial paralysis, and is now in hospital. For a time Miss Marsh was unable to speak, but this phase has mercifully passed, and there is some improvement. Prayer is earnestly desired.

Upon her return to London from Paris, Miss Madge Hutchinson was examined by our Harley Street Consultant, and tests revealed the presence of amebic dysentery—probably contracted in Tangier, and responsible for indifferent health for some time past. The trouble is now being treated in Sunderland—Miss Hutchinson's home town.

Called Home

As we go to press we learn, with the deepest regret, of the Homecall (after a very brief illness) of Mr. Ernest H. Devin, devoted and beloved Assistant Secretary of the N.A.M. from 1929 to 1935.