

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA "

The N.A.M. News Letter



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TRIPOLI
View looking towards the Old City

Should there be Missions to Moslems ?

THE Commission is clear : Preach the Gospel to every creature. To make any exception would be contrary to the Commission and to logic. For, if Islam be stronger than Christianity, Mohammed greater than Christ, then we should all go over to Islam !!

Luther did suggest that God had hardened their hearts, that Islam was the spirit of Anti-christ ; others have reminded us of the prophecy concerning Ishmael : ' His hand against every man, and every man's hand against him,' forgetting perhaps the blessing of Gen. 17, 20.

By Prayer and by Fasting the Victory shall be made manifest—that Victory which was obtained at Calvary. What have we done towards this manifestation ?

In about 70 years of Protestant Missions in North Africa it would not be far wide of the mark to say that 500 missionaries have laboured in these lands ; nor would it be far from facts to say that not more than 500 baptised or openly-confessed Christians have been known !

Contrary, perhaps, to all previous missionary effort (mainly R.C.) and, naturally, unlike all the other disintegrating influences, the Protestant missionary has, in the main, followed the one plan of ' Evangelisation.' This has given, I am sure, the impression that there has been no ' Plan,' which, probably, is true ; and yet, after having very closely examined their effort, I am sure GOD has had a Plan. Proof of this may be deduced from the way He has given us translators of the Scriptures where and when they were needed ; writers of hymns ; artists for the production of illustrated literature suitable for semi-literates or sensitive Arabs ; women leaders for Homes where have been trained native girls who are to-day the wives or the mothers of Christian men, of Christian leaders ; men who have wandered from tribe to tribe, from village to village, from market to market, until, to-day, the Gospel is known, even if not obeyed, throughout the length and breadth of North Africa. Others have cared for sick people in large numbers week after week, thus glorifying the name of Christ and making Him desirable.

I think of a game of Chess, a game I greatly love. In it there is a Master, moving a pawn here, a more important piece there, preparing a result which to him is known from the beginning, but may not be apparent to the casual observer. But, at a certain point in the game, there comes a quickening, moves are made which bring

results of great value and, finally, the triumph of the Master.

Have we been laying foundations in North Africa, have we had to be pawns, not perceiving nor understanding the Plan, the importance of our part in the whole ? To God be the glory if we have helped to bring His Victory so much nearer, if after the foundations the building begins to appear, if after ploughing and sowing the promise of harvest is before our eyes, if after preliminary and preparatory moves the ' Checkmate ' which announces victory is pronounced by the Master.

(From Mr. S. Arthur, Azazga, Algeria.)

A Movement of the Spirit at Nabeul

Some few months ago we heard in one week from two friends saying that the Lord was especially leading them out in prayer and giving them real liberty for the work here in Nabeul. Bob, too, had been praying for prepared contacts. In various ways the Lord has answered and now each Sunday morning Bob and Khalbous meet with three others. One of these, F—, has given a very clear testimony and witnesses both in and out of his home. Another is studying the Bible and is going through Romans with Bob. He has been tremendously impressed by Romans 7.

It is perhaps interesting to note that Khalbous leads the Sunday gathering, and Bob just takes part as he is led. F— will only be here for a few weeks now before taking an exam. in Tunis, so he is coming with Khalbous each morning at 8 for Bible Study and Prayer. Khalbous himself is full of enthusiasm and is a true brother both to them and us. He is very interested in a young Jew with whom he has long talks and who has a very keen intellect. Isn't that grand to have a Christian Arab seeking the conversion of Jews ? This one is not the only fish he is baiting.

With all these subjects for praise, you will not wonder that we fear also lest the Adversary should seek to hinder the work of the Spirit.

(From Mrs. R. Brown.)

Change and Challenge at Tetuan

Things have changed very much here during recent years. One hears of girls attending schools, having Spaniards teaching them geography, history, embroidery, Spanish as well as

Moorish cooking, and also the Spanish language. Truly literature is needed for these girls, and we must consider how we can reach them with the Gospel.

It is doubtful whether, in a few more years, a weekly knitting class will be attractive to them, for they learn it in school. We must pray and keep our eyes and ears open. Future candidates will have to have a good foundation of Arabic, and know sufficient of the classical to read the Arabic newspapers, if they are to keep up with the modern Moslem, and this applies to the women as well as to the men missionaries. Is there a move to get new and suitable literature for young people?

(From Miss E. Low.)

Laying the Dynamite

Paul told the Romans that he was proud of the Gospel because it was "the dynamite of God." The main task of the missionary in North Africa is to lodge the dynamite, and the major responsibility of prayer partners in the Homeland is to assure that the explosive is detonated by the Holy Spirit to blessed purpose.

Mr. Ewing of Constantine has spent another busy and successful year in getting this "T.N.T." of the Gospel into the hands and homes and hearts of Moslems, Jews and Europeans in Algeria.

During a twelvemonth our brother has actually sold 123 Bibles (French and Arabic), 57 New Testaments and 448 Gospels. His record sale of Bibles in one month was 36, an impressive figure.

The insertion of three advertisements in the local newspaper led to the sale of 39 Bibles.

Mr. Ewing's itinerations have brought him into personal touch with men in every walk of life; and among the purchasers of the Word of God have been doctors, Army officers, Jewish rabbis, policemen, bus-conductors and milk-vendors.

In addition, hundreds of Gospel tracts have been posted every month to station masters in Morocco and Tunisia, as well as Algeria.

. . . Are we going to focus our prayer, like a burning-glass, upon this Dynamite of GOD? If we don't, what a golden opportunity we are throwing away!

Overheard

One of the hardest things is to find out what an Arab really thinks. Frankness is not one of his strong points. It is therefore interesting at times to listen in to his conversation when he is not particularly thinking of you. What does he really believe about God? Is his God our loving heavenly Father?

Listen! A baby is unwanted, starved until it dies. "God willed it so," uttered with a shrug of the shoulders, explains all.

A young man is smitten with T.B. He cannot afford to pay the exorbitant hospital fees, and so the case seems hopeless. "God sent the disease," says the young wife, and not a tear does she shed.

A woman, whom one of us was teaching to read in Arabic, goes mad, kills her six-day old baby. It is all described in one word, "God!"

With such a strong belief in the existence of God, they can yet tell a blatant lie and call it "the truth of God."

Listen! The scene is the Meeting Room after the Women's Meeting. One woman is relating to the others how she has been wronged by the "in-laws" of her married daughter. There is nothing she can do about it, say the others. "Oh, but I have God," she says; "He sees." "Yes," replies one woman, "but that One lives in Heaven"; and the tone implies "He is too far away to care or do anything about your troubles." (Which, incidentally, are the result of her own sinful tongue!)

Their Koran tells them about the Lord Jesus. Why don't they accept Him?

Listen! The scene is the Boys' Class, and they are being told the story of the Parable of the Great Supper. They hear how the invited guests refused to come, offering their puny excuses. "Bring in the poor, the halt, the maimed, the blind," said the rich man. At this point the teacher places a picture of a lame man on the board and asks, "What do you think he replied when invited to the Feast?" expecting the whole class of such a feast-loving race to cry in unison, "I will gladly come!" But no, a thoughtful boy in the back row speaks up: "He would say, 'No, the Feast is not for me!'"

Oh, how sadly true it is that so many in North Africa to-day are hearing the glorious message of the Gospel Feast prepared for all, and are

saying, "No, this Feast is not for us ; Mohammed is our Prophet, Jesus is yours." Pray that every missionary may so present the message as to bring Christ near to the heart of the listener and that His Holy Spirit may convict of sin so that the burden of unpardoned, individual sin may be such that no visits to saints' tombs, saying of prayers, giving of alms, or even pilgrimages to Mecca shall be able to lift.

(From Mrs. Norman Pearce, Cherchell.)

Three Veterans Pass On

A relatively mild winter has nevertheless taken its toll of our older and frailest friends. On March 12th the **Rev. Percy J. Smart** passed away. He joined the Council of the N.A.M. in 1922, and his genial and gracious presence, to say nothing of his wise counsel, contributed greatly towards the affection and esteem in which he was held.

On Sunday, March 20th, we received tidings of the Homecall of **Miss A. M. Knight** of Tetuan, following a fall that was obviously a severe shock to the system. Miss Knight joined the N.A.M. in 1905, but she had already been in Morocco several years ; and her first published letter, printed in the Mission magazine, reveals qualities that must have endeared her to the senior worker, Miss A. G. Hubbard, whose life she was destined to share, and beside whose mortal remains her own body now awaits the Resurrection.

Then on April 4th **Miss F. M. Parkinson**, an N.A.M. associate of former years in Morocco, was called Home. A generous supporter of our work, Miss Parkinson was also, to the very end, a regular attender of our Headquarters Prayer Meetings.

The average age of these friends would be about four-score years. They were ripe and ready for their Lord's summons. For them it is nought but gain ; but we are the poorer for their passing, and the ranks of North Africa's intercessors have suffered a heavy loss.

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to help fill the gap !

White Rags for Tangier Hospital

The response to our "S.O.S." of a few months ago has been magnificent, and ample material is now in stock to meet all needs for some time to come.

If our American and Canadian friends, however, who have expressed their desire to help, will kindly send white rag or bandages direct to one or other of our Morocco Dispensaries, our friends there will be most grateful. The addresses are : Miss E. Low, c/o British Post Office, Tetuan, Spanish Morocco ; and Miss K. Reed, 2, Boulevard de Verdun, Settat, French Morocco.

Kaleel—"Friend of God"

I have a Christian woman, M——, who helps me. She was converted several years ago as a result of contact with the Hospital. She was always in poor health and had to have one operation after another. She had been married about fifteen years to a Moslem, but, much to their sorrow, they had no children. M—— tried hard to adopt one, but each time something happened and it fell through. Imagine their joy when, two years ago, God gave them a little boy of their own. They called him "Kaleel," meaning "Friend of God." We feel he is a special gift.

I thought perhaps M—— might find it too much to continue school duties when she had a baby, but she never thought of giving up school. She said she wanted the child brought up in our home, so ever since his birth she has brought him along every day. Thus we have watched him grow up as we would a child of the family. He is a lovely boy now, big for his age and intelligent. Already he is saying lots of words in Arabic and several in English. He sits all through the Scripture lesson as good as gold. When the children sing their closing hymn before going home he stands next to a little girl, Raabia, who is smaller than he is in spite of her three years, and woe betide Raabia if she opens her eyes, for immediately he pops his finger in them to close them again. Raabia just screws them up as tightly as she can, and clasps her little hands, whilst Kaleel acts policeman.

We do hope that as Kaleel is definitely being brought up in the Christian faith he may early give his heart to the Saviour. Please pray for M——'s husband, too, who was very bigoted at one time, but now gives M—— full liberty in her beliefs. She says that he will sometimes let her read the Scriptures to him, but I am afraid he will not attend any meetings. He is a good living man, simple and neither smokes nor drinks. He has been a faithful husband to M——.

(From Mrs. L. J. Bocking, Tangier.)