

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The N.A.M. News Letter

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No. 69

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

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1950



Photo by

E. C. LE GRICE, F.R.P.S.

ARE THEY NOT WELL WORTH SAVING ?

These are some of the little girls of Cherchell, Algeria, whom Mrs. Norman Pearce will be bidding farewell when she and her husband leave for Tripoli, their new sphere of labour. Our missionaries, in their many-sided activities, are never more profitably or happily employed than when they are seeking to instruct such winsome children in those Holy Scriptures that are " able to make . . . wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus."

Finance—A Darkening Horizon

Those of our readers who are able to keep in touch with the "Home end" as well as the Field work of other Missionary Societies will know that for most of them these are critical days, particularly in so far as the realm of finance is concerned. For the North Africa Mission the situation is probably without a parallel in all the sixty-eight years of its history.

Some of the contributory causes are not far to seek. On the Field itself, constantly soaring prices have provoked a steady and at length substantial increase in the cost of living. The devaluation of the pound means that there are fewer francs available to purchase dearer commodities; and since missionaries' allowances at the best of times have only covered their modest needs by the narrowest of margins, it is not difficult to imagine the increasing measure of hardship produced as, economically, the situation has grown more and more adverse.

At this end, devaluation has meant heavier expenditure in costlier fares for outward-bound or home-coming missionaries. But, quite frankly, this is not the primary cause of our present difficulties. Figures, those most stubborn and unchallengeable of facts, reveal that our day-to-day income through the past year or so has remained almost stationary whilst our commitments have grown rapidly through the welcoming of new missionary candidates and the acceptance of such other commitments as are both reasonable and inevitable when years of war-time stagnation are followed by a healthy forward surge.

For a while—and once again the figures argue inexorably—the large gap between the normal income and the mounting expenses was bridged, partly by revenue from legacies, but even more considerably through the generous benefactions of intimate friends of the Mission. Whilst we were immensely grateful for these timely interventions, we would understandably have been more reassured had the provision come from a greatly-increased number of the smaller daily gifts. To adapt the Scriptural analogy, we were lengthening our cords during a period when there was no apparent strengthening of our (financial) stakes. And yet, be it said to their great credit, our missionaries on the Field were the first to urge that the state of our exchequer should not deter us from accepting the reinforcements of which they—the missionaries—were in such urgent need. We

went forward in faith, and in spite of the sombre clouds of the present moment, we do not think that we can be taxed with foolhardiness.

It has been shrewdly observed that "when sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions"; and we ourselves have certainly felt the force of such a metaphor during the recent months. In October our missionaries received only one-third of their usual allowance; in November again only one-third; in December *nothing at all* apart from personal gifts that only fractionally compensated for the heavy arrears. It was in these circumstances that the heaviest blow of all fell. A channel of supply that had for many years brought in a large proportion of our income was so straitened through heavy taxation that the yield last year was reduced by some thousands of pounds.

Well, dear friends . . . we lay these needs before you as we have laid them before the LORD, *side by side with His Word*. We have reminded Him (for are we not His remembrancers?) of the vast, unmet need in North Africa; we have reminded Him of the Great Commission—"Go ye into all the world"; we have reminded Him of His Promises. He is the God of measureless resources; the God who 'devises means' that are often wonderful beyond our imagining; yet, normally, He meets need of this sort by kindling in His people's hearts true and deep concern, and then by making it possible for them to give more than they have ever given before. Were all our friends enabled to give half as much again as in former years, or twice as often, the situation would be eased, and the domestic horizon in many a missionary's home greatly brightened.

May He speak to all our hearts. "Who can work so wondrously as the Almighty One?" (E.J.L.)

Operations

"There are diversities of operations." (1 Cor., 12, 6.)

From week to week many surgical operations are performed by the Doctor and Nurses of the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier. As one who is privileged to work in close association with the medical staff of this busy Mission Hospital, I can assure you that such work, undertaken as an activity of the Spirit of God, will have results that only eternity will reveal.

Accompanying this medical work there are other "operations" to which I would like to refer. There is "Operation Preaching". The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is preached to the crowds who gather in the Dispensary Waiting Room, and it is pressed home as the patients are being dealt with individually. It is also made known in a fuller way each evening among the In-patients—by Dr. St. John, Mr. Bocking and myself in the Men's Ward, as well as by the Nurses and lady missionaries in the Women's Ward.

Recently a young Moorish man from a country town some miles from Tangier, who was receiving Hospital treatment, became interested; and since he could read his own language, Arabic, I was able to lend him Gospel literature, which helped him to understand the Good News. It was soon evident that his heart and mind were experiencing a work of the Spirit of God, and before he left he made a profession of faith in Christ as his Saviour.

Then there is "Operation Literature". The value of such work has been referred to above, and one feels there is need to develop this method of witness as the number of readers increases. This is an "operation" in which I am particularly interested. During the past year I have been able to pass on many hundreds of Gospels and tracts to readers. There have been signs of the Holy Spirit's work as some ask for more literature and others come to talk over the things they have read.

In connection with this type of work we are taking a forward step by building a room at the side of the Hospital in which the literature work will be centred and from which we hope to develop it as fully as possible. Your prayerful and practical help will be much appreciated.

Finally, let me mention the purpose of these and other missionary operations—the formation and functioning of the "Body" or "Church" referred to in this same twelfth chapter of first Corinthians. You will be glad to know that a group of believers is being gathered out in Tangier from amongst the Mohammedans in addition to that which already exists among the Spaniards.

I am sure you would be thrilled if you could meet with us at our Sunday worship in Arabic and see some fifty or more Moorish men and women praising the Lord and listening to His Word being expounded as we do at home. The weekly Bible Class helps to promote that growth in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus

Christ. Last, but not least, the daily morning prayers help to bring our 'diverse operations' into line with the will of God, that we may be workers together with Him. (*From Mr. C. G. Cooper, Tangier*).

Blessing in the Spanish Work

Three of our young people asked for baptism some time back. We have also had the joy of a visit from one of the women, who came to tell us of her wish to testify by baptism to her faith in the Saviour. She is night attendant in the French Hospital, and sleeps a good part of the day, so we see little of her, except at the Sunday meetings. Calling upon us as she came off duty, she said, "I just had to come . . . for some time now I have experienced a great change in me. I am a different creature, I sense the presence of the Lord with me, no matter where I am—in my house or in the hospital at night, and my heart is singing . . . I feel He wants me to take this step and I know that in so doing my joy will be complete".

On Sunday she gave a very simple confession of her faith, that Jesus was her Saviour and she wished to identify herself with Him in baptism. She said: "In everything I am His, for whatever life has in store for me, God helping me". Thus the Gospel still proves "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". (*From Mrs. D. Padilla, Tangier*.)

At Alcazar Again

Miss Chipperfield, reporting on her journey with Miss Theakston and others, tells of the wonderful send-off they had at Victoria, about seventy of their friends having gathered there to bid them farewell. En route, they had no difficulty with the customs, and with great relief found themselves and their luggage at their journey's end. When they reached the house they found their Moorish friends there to greet them. "And, if you please" writes Miss Chipperfield, "the whitewashing done in four rooms and kitchen and the mess cleaned up. How glad we have been, as it was terrifically hot for several days and we lived in a constant Turkish bath. We are heartily glad it is much cooler now. Rain is badly needed."

"A good many of the girls have called to see us, but we cannot properly begin classes till after the feast. We shall meanwhile prepare and visit the people."

Nicodemus is still causing sorrow because of his inability or unwillingness to come right out for the Lord. Speaking of him and of the other enquirer who has given so much joy, but who has been greatly tempted of late, Miss Chipperfield says :—

"It is indeed true that it is one thing to get converts but another thing to keep them. One does so dread lip profession. Oh that these people knew more about the exceeding sinfulness of sin and showed real contrition of heart."

Miss Theakston writes in much the same strain, but adds : "Mind you, we are not discouraged. The enemy doesn't fight shadows, and we are quite glad he doesn't consider us shadows. The steady, prolonged opposition to my return and the preliminary skirmishes here all point to a Divine purpose he would like to frustrate . . . That's why we turn again and again to the articles of our commission and the promises given in Isaiah 49 : 25, 'I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.'"

Back to Nabeul

Once again your prayers have brought us safely through an eighteen days' voyage and enabled us to get through three Customs without paying a penny. Now you can picture us settling down in our familiar surroundings—noise, clamour, smells, haughty indifference to God's true claims, fanatical adherence to the traditions of men. We got to Nabeul on the eve of the Moslem's "Aid El Kebir" ('The Great Feast') and the Jewish "Youm Kippur"—much bleating of the sheep as the Moslems bargained for their animals to kill the next day.

The Nabeul folk have drifted in, one after the other—many of them. The girls' class wants to begin forthwith. What cheer ! Before we resume we shall visit all their homes and invite them back again and also get their work ready for them. Pray, too, for the re-starting of the women's class, and also that as we visit in the homes blind eyes may be opened, deaf ears unstopped and hard hearts softened to understand, and to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Redeemer.

Best of all, perhaps, you will like to know that your prayers have been answered, and

we have our Jewish girl, Georgette, back working in the house for us. This must mean that the Lord has set His heart upon saving this child. We heard she had gone off to Tunis in readiness to sail with a batch of poor emigrants to Palestine. Will you pray her right through to know Christ as her Messiah-Saviour ? She has grown a lot and is fourteen years old now. This is a Number One challenge, and Satan will not take it lightly, so watch and pray for Georgette and for all our Jews and Moslems.

Another praise item is that our one Christian native here, who had been led off into Seventh Day Adventism, has been in Paris for several weeks now. He went directly to find fellowship with sound Christian friends there. This seems to have refreshed his soul and strengthened him spiritually. Pray that the error will just fade from his thoughts.

We shall be swamped from now on, as there is much to do as we take up the threads and begin again for the Lord Jesus in this waste place. We cannot tell you of a single publicly confessed believer here besides ourselves. How we need your prayers that we may be FILLED WITH HIS LOVE. (*From the Misses M. W. Jones and A. Clack,*)

Marriage of Miss Alma Kraulis

Friends will be interested to learn that Miss Alma Kraulis, who has for the past eleven years been serving the Lord in Tunisia and Algeria, was married on December 12th at the Highgate Tabernacle to a fellow-Latvian, Pastor Paul Strautins of Sweden.

During the winter months Mr. and Mrs. Strautins will be engaged in deputation ministry in Sweden, with a view to making widely known in that country the spiritual need of Moslem North Africa.

They will greatly value our readers' prayers.

The Keswick Week

A most acceptable gift to all Christian people, and especially to missionaries, is "The Keswick Week," the official report of the Keswick Convention (6s. paper, 7s. 6d. cloth boards, Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Ltd.) It contains all the addresses in full, as well as the four Bible Readings by the Bishop of Worcester on the Epistle to the Ephesians.

A special feature this time is a full report of the broadcast service, and there are day-to-day introductions and appendices describing the subsidiary meetings.