

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The NAM News Letter



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Photo by

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A KORANIC SCHOOL : TRIPOLI

The Moslems look upon the Koran as the finest book ever to appear among men. Its cadences and jingling rhyme fill them with rapturous wonder. They consider it as signal a miracle as was ever wrought. The root of the word "Koran" is "qaraa," and means to recite; and at countless Koranic schools throughout the Mohammedan world successive generations of boys learn to recite the entire volume with a verbal accuracy that should put to shame those of us who have committed to memory only scattered fragments of the Bible. How grievous, though, that these bright-faced, attractive boys should learn by heart passages that deny the deity of the Lord Jesus, and His atoning death! The Devil's deadly poison is being injected day by day. What are we doing to assure that the sole antidote, the Word of the

A New Venture :

The N.A.M.—A.M.B. Rally

The Joint Rally held on March 25th by two sister Missions (the North Africa Mission and the Algiers Mission Band) working side by side in North Africa was outstandingly encouraging, and revealed convincingly the mutual benefit that accrues when two kindred Societies, waiving for once their independent deputation ministries, make common cause in a united testimony.

The capacities of the Mary Sumner Hall, in terms both of accommodation and catering, were extended to the limit. The atmosphere was cordial, and every endeavour had been made to assure the utmost variety in the programme. There were most attractive and instructive displays of missionary exhibits; and a Tea Hour projection of colourful ciné films (accompanied by running commentaries) furnished a vivid background against which the many messages, distinctive and yet harmonious, acquired a stereoscopic clearness of perspective.

Those who attended the earlier Prayer Session realised, as the subsequent programme unfolded, that the Spirit of the Lord was manifestly with us in power and grace; and the later paragraphs of this News Letter bear testimony to the fact that a harvest of blessing is already in process of being reaped.

Finance : New Mercies

We are thankful to report that the payment of a legacy made possible the sending out of a full allowance for the month of April to missionaries supported from the General Fund. It was also possible to cover the minimum travelling expenses of workers whose furlough was due. For this easement we praise our heavenly Father with grateful hearts.

A bequest of the late Miss M. Knight makes provision for the full support of a missionary for a period of between six and seven years—timely help that will appreciably lighten the monthly burden. So let us mingle thankful praise with our daily petitions; and if we feel unable to increase our personal gifts to the Mission treasury, let us seek opportunity, as the Lord enables, *to interest other friends of ours in the evangelisation of North Africa*. An Irish friend of ours has been doing this recently with remarkable results.

A New Lighthouse in Tripoli City

We are installed in our new home, and a few details concerning it will show what cause we have on this station for praise and thanksgiving.

For months now so much prayer has gone up for the provision of suitable accommodation for the two of us, and that it should be found as soon as possible so as to allow of the Pearces joining us without too much delay.

It has been much on my own heart for the past year that Aisha's large Arab district, a mile away on the other side of the Italian town, would be a good centre for a new "lighthouse." As a matter of fact, years ago, Mr. Olley (now working in the Lake Tchad district) chose it for himself when he left Mr. Reid.

One afternoon a Jewess, daughter of the late Signor Haliffi—a staunch friend of Mr. Reid and of the missionaries here in years gone by—came on her bicycle to tell us there was an empty house in the very district we desired. We found it was the property of a Jew who himself has had close touch with missionaries here! He taught Mr. Cooper, Senior, Italian, and Mr. Cooper taught him English! After much prayer and business talks with this Mr. N—, my husband made the decision, and the house is ours—clean, bright, repaired and appearing to be the very gift from God for which we asked. It is three minutes from the sea, of which we have a view from two or three windows; and there is a wide panorama of sea and oasis from the roof. We have seven rooms, which sounds rather many for two persons, but five are on the small side, and even the two larger ones are not big. The kitchen is tiny, but it is large enough for us.

—From Mrs. J. A. Liley.

A New Book Shop in Tangier

You will be interested to know that the little Bible Depot adjoining the Hospital has started its ministry. We have gathered together a good supply of Bibles, New Testaments, Scripture portions and Tracts which had been stored in various places, so that, with the addition of a recent supply of new Bibles, etc., from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Classical Arabic booklets from Egypt, we have quite a good and attractive stock. The display window, which faces the main road, attracts constant attention from passers-by, where they can see and read portions of the Word of God printed in several languages and large Gospel texts in the three principal tongues spoken here. I have been able to pass on many Gospels and tracts to those willing to receive them. Some people

have ventured inside and shown real interest, and one feels hopeful that this added means of witness will be used of God to bring enlightenment to blinded and ignorant minds, and salvation to lost souls.

The languages of the Scriptures principally in use are Arabic, Spanish and French, and for occasional use we have small supplies in Portuguese, Italian, Russian, German and other European languages. For instance, a German who came to the Hospital from a boat in the port to be X-rayed, accepted a Gospel in his own language. On another occasion, a Russian who came for medical attention was quite pleased when he was handed a Russian translation of "The Way of Salvation." Recently we were disappointed not to be able to supply some Scriptures to a young Finnish woman, but we were able to give her a Gospel of John in Swedish which she could read.

It is my intention, D.V., to make the literature work more mobile when a suitable vehicle is available. The car I have at present is over 22 years old, and cannot be relied on for distant journeys. May we ask for more sympathetic prayer and help from Christian friends at home, alike for the medical and literature work and all opportunities now open to us to render practical and spiritual help to those in dire need around us? —*From Mr. C. G. Cooper*

New Stations Occupied

At a time when financial shortage is apt to introduce the unhappy word "retrenchment" into our vocabulary, nothing is more heartening than to learn of new branches of work being opened up in needy areas hitherto practically unreached by the missionary.

In this connection we would earnestly entreat our readers' prayer support on behalf of Miss Dorcas Henman and Miss Patricia St. John, both of whom have been led to seek a house and to establish a Gospel witness in strategic centres where no N.A.M. worker has previously resided.

For reasons that will be obvious to those who are acquainted with the delicate situation prevailing in certain parts of North Africa nowadays, we deem it prudent not to name the two places concerned. There are many initial difficulties to be overcome, but much prayer in the Homeland, and much grace and wisdom out yonder, will doubtless prevail.

It is perhaps desirable to add that both projects have been confirmed by the Lord's special financial provision: neither venture involves any additional burden upon the General Fund of the Mission.

A New Worker

At a recent Council Meeting it was unanimously decided to welcome as a probationer missionary Mr. Paul Strautins, whose marriage to Miss Alma Kraulis was announced some months ago. Reference is made in the following paragraph to the deputation ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Strautins in Sweden. When their programme (of six months' duration) is completed, our friends will go to Paris, where Mr. Strautins will spend a year studying French and the principles of Arabic. Please remember these devoted and industrious friends specially in your prayers.

Deputation Work in Sweden

Another month has passed in this country, and we can say that hitherto God has helped us and all our need has been supplied. But we still meet with the same difficulties—we cannot manage to make a full programme of meetings that would keep us going all the time. We have had meetings in some seven or eight Methodist Churches, most of them small country places where big collections could not be expected. However, all our expenses were covered and we had something to spare.

We have also been able to hold a few meetings independently in some schoolrooms in the neighbourhood. Last week I had to go to Stockholm alone to speak at the Women's Missionary Meeting. Miss Gelotte interpreted for me. It was a very nice meeting, though not so big in numbers—about seventy only. One was conscious of God's presence, and it was easy to speak.

In the congregation there was such a high personage as Prince Oskar (Bernadotte), the King's brother. I felt a bit nervous when I was told that he was coming to the meeting, but my nervousness disappeared after I had been introduced to him, for he is such a nice, humble Christian man. After the meeting he said that henceforth he was going to "pray" for North Africa every Tuesday. He also brought me in his own car back to the Mission's Headquarters. The people were generous with their gifts, and that small congregation presented me with a collection of about £29.

—*From Mrs. P. Strautins (née Kraulis).*

From Cherrhell to Tripoli

We had a very pleasant and interesting journey by train to Tunis and then by bus. Mr. Miles met us at Tunis and we spent an enjoyable week-end with him and his wife, looking around the town and meeting other missionaries. We saw places and people whose acquaintance we had already made on Mr. Fife's film. Carthage is a very beautiful place, spoiled only by a strong Roman Catholic element and by persistent Arab guides, who speak enough English to make themselves a thorough nuisance. One boy, who followed us round and to whom Norman spoke, gave us the startling information that the Lord Jesus was a Moslem!

The bus ride from Tunis was very challenging. We passed through the towns of Sousse, Sfax and numerous other small towns, villages and hamlets, now without a single witness, as far as we know. We stopped for the night at Gabes, a lovely oasis town, so friendly and native in appearance. The little Arab children were keen to greet us, but were frightened of the camera. We did get a snap of some of them coming out of school. An N.A.M. missionary once spent six months of the year in Gabes, but now they are sheep without a shepherd.

We have no time to describe the journey in detail, but it was rather a thrill to see the Union Jack flying over the Tripoli frontier. Whatever the outward symbol of government, only the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ can change men's hearts.

We arrived in Tripoli before we were expected and hired a carriage to bring us to the Mission House. Olwen Pierce and Jennie Wilberforce were surprised to see us so soon, but by the time Dr. and Mrs. Liley arrived we were drinking tea and feeling quite at home. Then Dr. Liley thanked the Lord for bringing us all to Tripoli and prayed for His blessing on the future.

You will be wanting to hear our impression of Tripoli, but we feel that these are early days. However, we can tell you our first reactions. Many of you have pitied us leaving the house at Cherrhell, but this really is a delightfully clean, airy house, and we do not feel shut in. Our goods have all arrived safe and sound, for which we are very thankful, and there is a minimum of furniture belonging to the Mission, so for the time being we can manage. The language is certainly very different—Tripoli Arabic is almost a language of its own! We shall have to tackle Italian fairly soon, but meanwhile it is quite convenient to be able to talk English in the shops and even in the native market!

Norman has already started helping in the Dispensary and I hope to give a hand when we are a little more straight. We hope it will not be too long before we are able to start classes for the children and perhaps for the women. We need to go slowly, as our permit only holds good for three months and then it has to be renewed.

The Christian lads stationed here still look to the missionaries for fellowship, and we need wisdom to know how much of our time this side of the work should occupy. We have received a warm welcome from the Nonconformist Padre and his French wife. His mother-in-law speaks very little English and so it is a real joy to be able to talk to her in French. Incidentally, we do hope that our languages will keep themselves in water-tight compartments and not get mixed up!

—From Mrs. Margaret Pearce.

Mr. Alfred R. Shorey

With the passing away on March 23rd of Mr. Alfred R. Shorey, the North Africa Mission has lost its oldest male worker. In company with Mr. D. G. Ross, he went to Algeria in November, 1902. The two young men had both been trained at Harley House under Dr. H. Grattan Guinness, and were designated "Pearse Memorial Missionaries;" their acceptance having almost coincided with the death of Mr. George Pearse, through whose instrumentality, in fellowship with Mr. Edward H. Glenny and Dr. Guinness, the Mission had been founded.

For many years Mr. and Mrs. Shorey (who was Mr. Ross's sister) worked in Algiers, and later spent a considerable period in Kabylia; but ill-health compelled their return to Algiers, where Mrs. Shorey died.

When he reached the age for retirement, Mr. Shorey came to England, but could not settle down. Instead, he went to Paris to work among the Kabyles there; but Algeria called insistently, and back he went and laboured on till failing health compelled his return to England.

Mr. Shorey was one of the most modest of men, and faithful in all that he undertook. He was ever about his Master's business, seeking out the Kabyles in their shops, cafés and mountain villages. His labours were not in vain, and his works follow him; he will have stars in his crown. Well did he earn the title his fellow-workers gave him—"The Pace-maker."

—T.J.P.W.