

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

# The NAM News Letter



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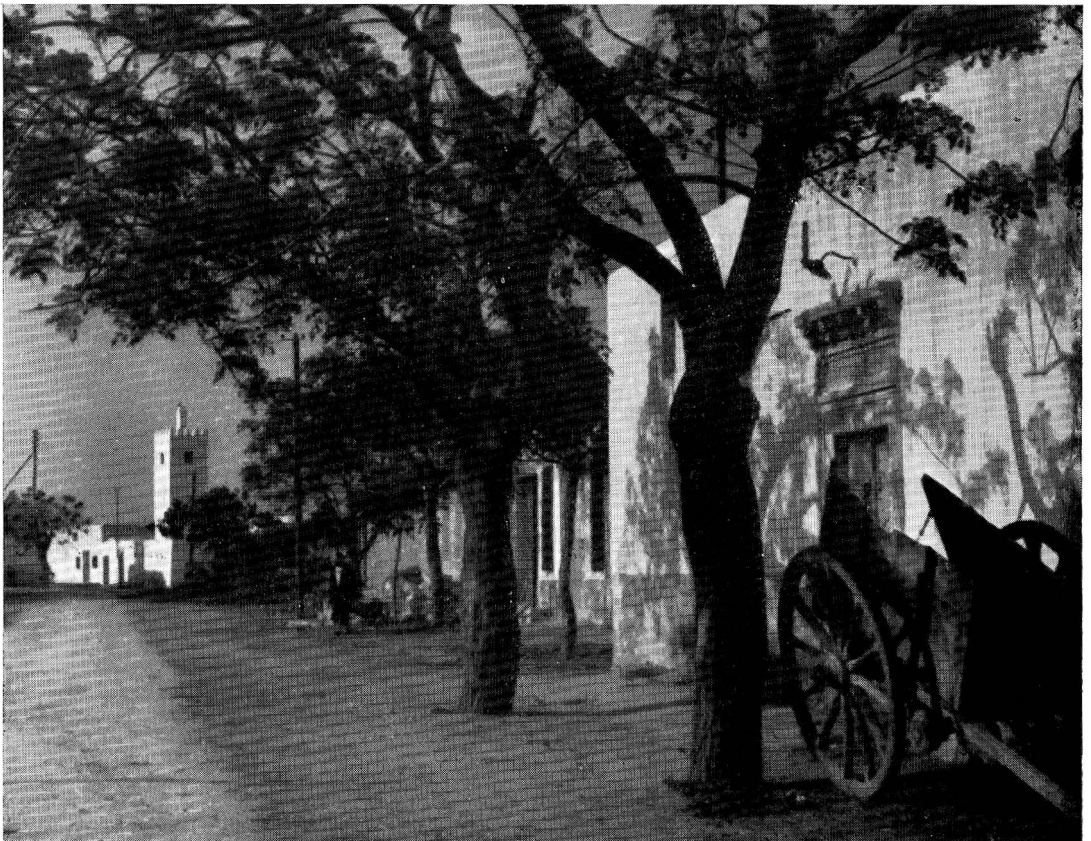


Photo by]

[E. C. Le Grice, F.R.P.S.

## The Village of Bir Challouf, near Nabeul, Tunisia

"Bir Challouf" (writes Mrs. R. I. Brown) "is typical of myriads of villages in Tunisia, and conforms to the usual pattern with its mosque, its white-washed houses, its sun-soaked streets and sordid alleys. There is, however, one big difference. Whilst the majority of village-dwellers can only hear the Gospel on the rare occasions of the visits of an itinerant missionary, here a class has been established in one of the houses. A few girls gather, week by week, to learn of One Who would be their Saviour and Friend. Often women from near-by houses will come in for a while, and the younger schoolboys when on holiday. Thus one village is reached with the Gospel message. But what of the others?"

## Our Valedictory Meetings

Those who are tempted to look upon missionary work among Moslems as being uniformly discouraging and depressing would have received a salutary rebuke had they attended the "Farewell" meetings of the N.A.M. on September 21st. The afternoon gathering, under the chairmanship of the Rev. T. J. P. Warren, was in itself a spiritual tonic. It was grand to hear our missionaries speaking with enthusiasm and unquenched hopefulness of the work which has become dear to them despite its many difficulties.

Speakers from centres as widely separated as Tetuan and Tunis gave graphic accounts of their work, and stressed the challenge and opportunities of the hour. Two recently-married recruits, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Collinson, told how the Lord had laid Algeria upon their hearts, and the Chairman expressed his pleasure that these friends were going out to Djemaa Sahridj, the Mission's oldest Station, where he and his wife had laboured during the first fourteen years of their missionary career.

The Livingstone Hall was thronged in the evening, and each message gave evidence of prayerful preparation and of the Lord's hand upon His servant. One of the speakers was Dr. Farnham St. John, who was married last month to Dr. Janet Thompson—an alliance that will very considerably reinforce the medical work at the Tangier Hospital.

Five recruits are expecting to leave for North Africa shortly—Mrs. Farnham St. John, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Collinson, and (for nursing duties) Miss K. B. Carter and Miss G. Tridgell; and all of these gave heartening testimony to the way in which the Lord had guided them towards specific spheres of missionary service in North Africa.

The closing speaker was the Rev. John A. Gaiger, whose theme, "Ye see your calling" (1 Cor. 1, 26), was ably handled and powerfully applied.

## Three Nurses for Tangier Hospital

At a recent Council Meeting two further recruits were welcomed for temporary service as nurses at the Tulloch Memorial Hospital. They are *Miss K. B. Carter*, who is in fellowship at Camrose Baptist Church, Edgware, and *Miss G. Tridgell*, a member of Holland Road Baptist Church, Hove. The Tangier Hospital has immediate need of just such help as they are

professionally qualified to render and we trust that sea passages, via Gibraltar, will be available for them by early November. Our sisters will be grateful for your prayers that every need of theirs may be met as they set their faces to undertake service for which they believe the Lord has been preparing them, and the rigours of which they do not under-estimate.

A further recruit for "The T.M.H." is *Miss Bente Andersen*, of Copenhagen—a young Danish sister whom we have come to know and esteem during her brief sojourn at Headquarters. Bible-trained at Beatenberg, Miss Andersen has just completed a full midwifery course at Brussels, passing with distinction. To her four European languages—Danish, English, French and German—she hopes now to add Arabic, and for this purpose is proceeding shortly to Paris for a year's study under Mr. Procter's supervision.

## N.A.M. Co-operation with the Bible Society

During the year April 1949 to April 1950 it was my privilege, as newly-appointed Field Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society for North Africa, to visit most of the Mission stations on this Field. In particular I was able to visit almost without exception the stations of the North Africa Mission, and in many cases to spend some time in gaining an insight into their work. Kabylia, Fez, Casablanca, Tunis, Tangier, all have their tasks of special interest and importance, and at all these we received, as representatives of the Bible Society, a warm welcome and every possible help in our own particular task. To many of the N.A.M. Staffs we are grateful for colportage and Bookshop circulation of the Scriptures which we have been asked to send to them, and which have been distributed with great faithfulness in many parts of the Field. Missionary colportage has a particular value in that the missionary can more often follow up enquiries which may result from the purchase of Scriptures than can an itinerant colporteur, who must in most instances be content to 'cast his bread upon the waters.'

Of these many visits paid, undoubtedly the most unusual, and from the standpoint of colportage the most successful, was a visit to Tripoli which I was able to pay in April. We are particularly grateful to Dr. J. Liley, without whose intervention in official circles to secure the necessary facilities for our various

visits we would have been unlikely to succeed as we did. He was a true friend to the Bible Society in every way, and spared no effort to help on our task—a task which, with his colleagues, he carries on no less faithfully in our absence by Scripture circulation and distribution.

In his previous visits Sr. Bocca had concentrated on colportage in the city of Tripoli. It was recognised, however, that many other centres in the province had not been visited by a colporteur for many, many years—if, indeed, at all. At one time we had hoped to take either a motor cycle or motor caravan into Libya, but unfortunately the two vehicles at our disposal were not sound enough for the journey, and the tour was made in the Bible Society's Secretary's car. None the less, it was possible to visit a number of outlying centres, under Dr. Liley's guidance, and to cover by colportage ground that was previously untouched.

Dr. Liley was also able to introduce the members of the party to a number of officials and members of the administration; and these introductions facilitated our work, particularly in the centres away from Tripoli.

All the District Administrators welcomed the party and gave us facilities for colportage. At Misourata the Administrator asked Sr. Bocca to return with Arabic New Testaments for some of the native staff. At Garian the Administrator secured us admission to a large tobaccogrowing estate, with an introduction to the manager. Many Scriptures were sold in this estate.

Without the kindly assistance of these and other officials our tour would have been impossible; extra petrol was provided for our journeys, the rationing of petrol being fairly strict at that time.

Colporteur Bocca spent about a month in the country and undertook the bulk of the colportage. Other members of the party, accompanied either by Dr. Liley or Mr. Pearce, made a number of day journeys and joined in the colportage. The readiness to purchase Scriptures was most impressive, and the demand for Arabic portions soon exceeded the supplies available.

"Furthest East" we visited Misourata, again with Dr. Liley as our guide, and in this small town we left Sr. Bocca for a short stay. He was happy with so many Italians and Italian-speaking people around him.

More Arabic Scriptures could have been sold had they been available at the time, and it is hoped to make a special effort in the Spring of 1951 to reach the Moslem population in the remoter areas. The caravan is being repaired and renovated with a view to this. For the present, all that remains is to express our deep gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Liley, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and their staff for all the many and varied forms of assistance and personal kindnesses they showed us. They have, I feel sure, thus strengthened the existing bond between the North Africa Mission and the Bible Society in this Field, and we look forward to further co-operation with them in the coming year.

—From the Rev. James M. Roe,  
Director of the B. & F.B. Society's  
Work in North Africa.

## The Children of Alcazar

These early paragraphs were written on a wooded hillside 5,000 ft. above sea level. We left Alcazar for a few weeks as it had become just like an oven, full of dust and glare. We have enjoyed our holiday in this beautiful spot in the Riff Mountains, where it has been no hotter than an English heat wave.

School is closed for the summer. The children, strangely enough, did not seem a bit pleased to be having a holiday, and I think would have continued to come right through the summer if the choice had been left to them.

It is not very easy to assess the year's work. We had about fifty children on the books when we closed, and many more have been for varying periods. What have they learnt? In practical things they have been taught to make all manner of clothes. Mentally, they have learnt to read and write in their own language, and have mastered some arithmetic. It is uphill work for some of them, as thinking is an unaccustomed exercise.

And spiritually? We wish we could say more; but you can't estimate the harvest in sowing time. We just have to rest on the promise that there will be a harvest because the Seed has Life in itself. Many of the children understand the Plan of Salvation quite clearly, but at home they either say nothing, or, if they do recount what they have heard at the classes, they are speedily told differently. The result is that when the Word is given one can often feel the conflict so strongly that it would hardly be a surprise to see the two forces locked in mortal combat before one's eyes.

We have been back in Alcazar about a fortnight now, and have been busy whitewashing, painting, repairing and altering—thanks to the kind friends whose gifts have made this possible.

The big Moslem feast of the sheep-killing falls towards the end of this month, so we are not opening school until that is over, as we should only have to close again for that week. Several children have been to see us to welcome us home. The interval gives an opportunity for visiting the homes, and as there is an epidemic of bad eyes, we are holding an unofficial eye clinic as well.

The children are already looking forward to Christmas. Three-quarters of them are new since last Christmas and have only heard of its wonders from those who were here last year.

I have just seen M'sauda after an interval of three months. She found the hospital and her home together a bit too much, but her home alone did not absorb all her energies, so she is now helping Mrs. Bocking, who has the girls' school. Miss Chambers also finds her very helpful in visiting. Continue praying for her and her husband.

We shall be glad of your prayers as we start the new year's work with the children, that the Holy Spirit Himself may work amongst us, giving not only Light, from which they often turn away, but conviction and Life.

Pray for several bigger boys, older brothers of the girls for the most part, who often ask us for books; restless, frustrated, unsatisfied boys they are.

Pray for us, too, that as the Lord has no other instruments in this town He may be able to make the most of what He has got.

—From the Misses M. E. Chipperfield  
and G. W. Theakston.

## Among Europeans in Casablanca

The Lord is blessing His work here in Casablanca and we have much cause to praise Him for a real forward movement. Recently several young men and girls have been born again and others are thinking seriously. Backsliders, too, are coming back to the Lord and giving us great joy.

The open-air meetings are better than ever; two or three hundred people hear the Gospel each Sunday evening, and some stay through the whole meeting. Sometimes our workers are obliged to give two, or even three, messages each because the people won't go away, and this after already spending their Sunday in the Lord's work, so that they are utterly tired by the close of the day.

The special Gospel services held the first Sunday evening of every month nearly always attract a full hall and we are having real blessing.

We are circulating good books and literature specially written for the deepening of spiritual life, and our workers are reading well. The Holy Spirit is working, but the devil is also busy.

—From Miss C. A. Bowring.

## MY SAVIOUR CARES—DO I?

And does it really matter very much  
If I have some small pleasure I had planned,  
When men are dying fast, without the touch  
Of my dear Saviour's hand?

And does my heart feel anguish when I know  
That some material thing—for me—is lost,  
And yet not care that souls my Lord holds dear  
And bought at boundless cost

Are still in bondage held, with fetters wrought  
Of sin and fear, deep-cast in hell's dark night,  
Because they have not heard, not yet been taught

Of their Redeemer's might?

How can I blindly go upon my way,  
And shut my heart against my brother's need,  
When I *could* help to turn their night to day,  
And know them saved and freed

From ignorance and darkness and distress?  
Lord, give me grace to play a brother's part;  
Lord, burn the indifference and selfishness  
For ever from my heart,

That, though I be not chosen to assail  
In the front ranks the enemy's attack,  
Yet may I never learn that others fail  
Because my hands are slack.

Yes, may I not remember that I gave—  
Grudgingly given—a pittance, mean and small,  
When I my God shall meet, my Lord Who gave  
To save my soul HIS ALL.

BETTY GARGE.

(A Friend and Prayer-partner  
of one of our Missionaries).