

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The N.A.M. News Letter



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Kabyles Crossing a River

(Reproduced from the first bound volume of the Mission Magazine).

This old engraving takes us back to the earliest days of missionary work in Algeria, and provides a most suitable illustration for the paragraphs (page two) headed "These Seventy Years" — a brief outline of the story of the North Africa Mission.

These Seventy Years

Seventy years have passed since the first missionaries of the N.A.M. set foot in Algeria. Today we pause for a moment to look back upon seven decades of the faithfulness of God.

Seldom can a major missionary movement have had so prosaic a starting-point. It was through the perusal of the morning newspaper that the vision came to Mr. Edward Glenny. This is how he writes of it:—

“It was early in the year 1881 that my attention was drawn to Algeria by reading an article in the *Daily Chronicle*, which told of the way in which Algerian produce was sent to the London markets. It occurred to me that it might be possible to engage in business in Algeria and at the same time serve the Lord in direct work for Him there, as I had been doing at home.”

Mr. Glenny approached, and interested, his friend Mrs. Grattan Guinness, who recommended communication with Mr. George Pearse, a missionary-hearted brother who, as honorary secretary of the Chinese Evangelisation Society, had taken a prominent part in sending out Hudson Taylor to China in 1853. Mr. Pearse lost no time in visiting Algeria, but he was unsuccessful in enlisting the help of either the **French Protestant Church in that country** or the Church Missionary Society in the homeland.

Nevertheless, through the zealous and able advocacy of Mr. Pearse, Dr. Grattan Guinness and Mr. Glenny, the consciences of Christian people in Great Britain became more and more disturbed by the knowledge that “in the vast area of country extending from Alexandria to the Atlantic not a single missionary is to be found occupied with the evangelisation of the native races,” and about £500 was quickly contributed towards the launching of the new venture that Mr. Pearse was industriously planning. A small committee of management had been secured, two young men of special qualifications had come forward as missionary candidates, and a considerable number of friends had already pledged themselves to support the work by their prayers and by their gifts.

The “two young men” were Mr. F. S. Zeytoun, a Syrian Druse, and Monsieur H. Mayor, of Algeria. Mr. Pearse had brought them to London to meet the “Committee,” and he accompanied them upon their return to Algeria, Mr. Glenny also forming one of the party. Mr. Pearse had already acquired a piece of land in Kabylia (the “highlands” of Algeria), close to the large native village of Djemaa Sahridj, and

not far from the small village of French colonists called Mekla.

At its inception the work had been given the title of “The Mission to Kabyles,” but as the missionary band grew in numbers, and Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and even Arabia were successively occupied, the ampler title of “The North Africa Mission” was substituted. Within nineteen years—that is, by the time the calendar displayed the novel date, “January 1st, 1900”—there were exactly one hundred missionaries on the field, one-third of whom were men. In due time other missionary agencies entered the spiritual arena, and it became possible for the N.A.M. to concentrate its workers in strategic centres in the “Barbary States”—that is, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

During the past half-century the effective evangelisation of these Barbary States has been interrupted by two world wars and seriously retarded by a grievous scarcity of young men candidates. We are praying that they will be forthcoming—from America and Canada, as well as from Great Britain. But they must be men of the right calibre, with a faith and a courage matching the hardness of the task before them. They enter a territory where no spectacular victory has yet been won. However, those who pray, and give, and send, may be certain that in the day of harvest that is sure to come no partner in the work will be overlooked or unrewarded.

“We praise our Heavenly Father with grateful hearts for the wonder of His grace and the faithfulness of His manifold provision during the past seventy momentous years. We count it high honour to be privileged to serve Him in one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. May He keep us faithful in every department of the work, but particularly in intercession—our hands “steady till the going down of the sun.”

Perhaps the writer may be pardoned for stressing the urgent need of generous-hearted giving in these days of ever-mounting missionary expenses. Too often this year we have sent out to the field woefully-diminished monthly allowances for our gallant fellow-workers. If we are already giving to the limit, perhaps we could still increase our contribution by interesting other Christian friends in this vital missionary work!

Good Tidings from Tunis

The hymn writer exhorts us to count our blessings—an impossible task—but one need not spend very long in reflection before sharing the

sentiment of the Psalmist who called upon his soul and all that was within him to praise the Lord. You who have shared so faithfully in intercession will rejoice and praise the Lord with us for many answers to prayer.

S——, the Jewish girl, who is now completely cut off from contact with us, is known to be standing firm on the Rock and is still rejoicing in the Lord, in spite of persistent opposition at home. Her Bible was found and confiscated, but she has access to a New Testament. V——, for whom some of you have prayed, has taken the step of following the Lord through the waters of baptism, and there was none of the anticipated Rabbinic opposition, which means that his family did not disown him, and, indeed, there is reason to believe that his testimony is being used in the home. He is rapidly growing in grace and believes that God, in His own time, will open the door to full-time service among his own people, the Jews.

Recently one of our number was led to suggest a new project, the execution of which is just one of V——'s undertakings. A list of ten names and addresses is made every week and a different tract sent by post to each one, each day of the week, the tracts bearing an invitation to the meetings. The recipients are people for whom friends have been praying or whose names they are led to submit. Imagine our joy at receiving during the second week a signed confession of faith from one lady to whom tracts had been sent. It now appears that over a long period some believers, unbeknown to each other, have been used in sowing the Seed and watering, and at last this precious soul has been led into the joy of salvation. Please pray for this person and for this evangelistic effort.—*From Rev. and Mrs. P. J. Patching.*

Ouezzane—A New Station in Morocco

Just about a year ago I wrote and told friends that we had been enabled to find a house suitable in every way for Dispensary work in this town. We are now established inhabitants, no longer needing a P.O. box number, and if you were to pay me a visit, you would only have to ask for the English Tabeeba (Nurse) and I think most small boys would be able to guide you to our house. As one looks back, one's heart just sings with praise for the many answers to prayer and evidence of our Heavenly Father's provision.

A year ago, too, I asked for prayer for the very kind neighbour who was helping me so

much during those first weeks. A few months later she and her husband had to leave Ouezzane for Tangier, but in going to the hospital there for treatment she was much helped. She is now attending the Wednesday and Sunday meetings regularly, and she says she believes. She came back here to visit her mother and sister a few weeks ago and gave us much joy when she told us she now loves listening to the Word and how one night while here she had had a dream that One dressed in shining white had spoken to her, telling her not to be afraid either for herself or for her baby boy. She said she had awakened in the morning so happy and full of this dream that she had to tell her sister all about it. Last month, while I was in Tangier for our Conference, I met her often. Confiding in me the difficulties of her position—having her husband out of work, and having to live with his brother's large family, with no place to call her own and much quarrelling—she owned that she could not have put up with things if the Lord Jesus had not brought her comfort and given her patience, and we often sang that hymn together, "What a Friend we have in Jesus." Mena and M'Souda, Christian women in Tangier, are being a great help to her, and she goes round to their houses for peace and quiet and reading of the Word. This is just another miracle to me, as I remember her determined efforts, only a year ago, to avoid hearing the Gospel.

Will you continue to join with us in praying that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the people here through the Word? There are those who hear morning after morning as they come for medicine, a few dear women who gather with us each Tuesday afternoon and seem so interested and keen to hear more, and those who hear as we visit in the homes. Will you pray specially for one young man who asked for the Gospels to read so that he could look up the references and passages quoted from them in a book he is reading on Comparative Religions, a book written by a Moslem. The Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation; so may we pray believingly and expectantly day by day.

This is one of the Holy Cities of Morocco. Numbers of pilgrims come from all over the country to visit the tombs of the saints buried here. In consequence, though the people are very nice and very hospitable, they are very religious, and one sometimes wonders, like the apostles of old, "Who then can be saved?" They have no sense of their need, for they are usually so satisfied with their own religion and its customs. We need to pray for that conviction of sin which the Holy Spirit alone can work in

the hearts of those who listen to the way of Salvation.—*From Miss Dorcas Henman.*

Reoccupation of Gabes

By the time you read this we shall have left Nabeul and moved down south to the little port town of Gabes. That's the decision we unanimously came to at our May Conference. The Nabeul property (Dar En-naama) is to be sold so that the Mission can buy or rent quarters elsewhere in Tunisia. The feeling is that Nabeul has had an unusual opportunity to hear the Gospel during the more than forty years of steady witness there. So the thought is that other towns should have the privilege of hearing as well.

Now will you please pray that the seed sown at Nabeul these many long years may not be lost, but may yet bear fruit? We and the Browns will be able to visit there periodically. And will you pray us into the hearts of our new folks down south, for His sake and the Gospel's, so we shall find them ready to listen, to believe and to receive the Truth?

It is a bad wrench to leave our women and girls at Nabeul, but they can all, every one of them, tell us clearly the way of salvation, and have a store of Scripture, hymns and Bible stories laid up in their minds against the day when they should need them, whereas down south there are thousands who know nothing about Christ and His saving love.

Our new address is: Boite Postale No. 47, Gabes, Tunisia, North Africa.—*From the Misses A. Clack and M. W. Jones.*

Great Missionary Exhibition

Probably most of our readers have already learnt of the forthcoming "Festival of Britain Evangelistic Campaign and Exhibition," which will make the Central Hall, Westminster, the scene of unprecedented spiritual activities during the first three weeks of September (Sept. 1 to 22 inclusive).

The ground floor and basement will accommodate a unique Missionary Exhibition, where stalls and wall spaces well nigh two hundred in number will help visitors to understand, in a graphic and striking way, just how the world's great need of Christ is being met through such agencies as Missionary Societies, Publishers of Christian Literature, Missionary Training Colleges, and so on.

The N.A.M. has its own wall space (eight feet by five feet) and is also sharing in the

"double" stall (sixteen feet long) taken by The Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems. Do look out for this particular stall (with adjacent N.A.M. wall-space) when visiting the Exhibition, and be much in prayer for the Lord's fullest blessing upon this large-scale co-operative venture.

Don't Miss This!

At the recent "Slavanka" Prayer Conference of the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems one of the choicest features of a rich programme was the series of seven after-breakfast talks given by our genial, gifted brother, Mr. A. T. Upson ("Abdul-Fady"), whose missionary association with the N.A.M. began in 1898.

These pithy talks had as their theme "Seven Stages in a Worker's Career"—Vocation, Location, Temptation, Restoration, Co-operation, Expectation and Jubilation; and through Mr. Upson's kindness they have been summarised in note form in a little folder which may be obtained from him at cost price, 2/- per dozen. Address: A. T. Upson, 8, Queen's Road, Rayleigh, Essex.

OUR VALEDICTORY MEETINGS

We give a warm invitation to our friends residing in or near London to have fellowship with us at our Annual Meetings to be held once more, GOD willing, at the Livingstone Hall (near St. James's Park Underground Station) on Thursday, September 27th, at 3 (for prayer), 3-30 and 6-30 p.m.

Missionaries on furlough will take part at both afternoon and evening gatherings; and the closing message of the day will be brought by the Rev. GODFREY ROBINSON, B.A., B.D.