
forward

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION

Heavenly Thinking

BERNARD COLLINSON

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55 : 8-9.

We are invited to *recognise* the fact that His thoughts are ever higher than ours. It is the difference between the heavenly and the earthly, the infinite and the finite. His thoughts are according to total knowledge. No man can advise God. All the answers are with Him. His Sovereign thoughts are expressed in Sovereign ways with His Church—with men and nations. Let us recognise the fact and be prepared for changes we hadn't yet thought of.

Then it is a fact to which we must be *reconciled*—not grimly but gladly. We admit without a trace of resentment that our thoughts are inadequate to embrace the details of His plan. We cannot always tell the point reached in His schedule and I question the value of overspeculation. Because God IS, His thoughts occupy an eternal present; His thoughts are toward us now. This is our security in changing situations and our deep satisfaction amid a world of questionings. Expect changes and welcome them—when He is leading on.

It is also a fact for *rejoicing*. He Whose thoughts are higher than ours is Himself Love. Our call to Himself was conceived in eternity, not in time. Chosen in Christ, we are related to Him not as servants but as sons. In that privileged intimacy He will share His thoughts with us. His loving faithfulness invites our spontaneous consecration.

As “workers together” gladly placed at His disposal, He will lead us to experience His purposes of redemption. Then our future way will be His way.

The logo for the North Africa Mission (na|m) features the lowercase letters 'na|m' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A vertical line is positioned between the 'a' and the 'm', and a horizontal line extends from the top of the 'm' to the right, creating a stylized graphic element.

MARCH 1968

Bind the Strong Man

KAY CASTLE & WENDELL EVANS

ON Sunday, November 19th, our morning service was a very special one, for it was the occasion of Farida's baptism. Any open confession of faith in this land is uncommon, and Satanic opposition can be expected. However, in answer to prayer, every obstacle was overcome, and family permission (because Farida is a minor) obtained.

In the front row, next to Farida, sat two christian girls from another town. They themselves knew it was not easy to be a christian. If it were not for prayer one of them would be married to a muslim husband by now, and the other turned out of home. Yet their clear testimonies at our girls' club last May had been a tremendous encouragement to Farida, whose spiritual progress seems to date from that time.

Behind them sat Yasmina, a Bible Course contact. She seldom comes to see us, but we had told her about the baptism, and prayed that she would be present. It seems that her father is making it difficult for her to go out. I wondered what she thought of the service, but she was obviously thrilled to meet the other christians, and appeared to be clear concerning her own faith. She recently told us that she had refused to take part in muslim prayers in school, and that though she could not see us, it did not mean she was not a christian.

Next to me sat Nedjma and Malika. We came to know Nedjma

through the Bible Courses too. Both girls are taking a nursing course in Constantine and spend their Sundays with us. Nedjma was very impressed with the service, and afterwards said that she was on the point of deciding for Christ. The whole affair was completely new to Malika, who had never heard the Gospel before, but wanted to join us. We need to pray that Malika's influence will not hinder Nedjma.

We were pleased that Amar could be with us. His school studies, and the need to work in his father's shop, normally keep him away on Sundays, but he had made a special effort to come. Evidently, he would like to be baptised, but does not feel free, as yet, to ask his parents' permission.

Beside him sat Kamel, whose thoughts must have turned towards his own baptism just over a year ago. He has been having his "ups" and "downs" in the christian life, but has a sincere love for Christ and a desire to serve Him.

After singing and prayer, and a message on the first part of Romans 6, Farida told how she became a christian. Her first contact with the Gospel was through the Bible Courses. Later she met the missionaries, and, through them, Rahyma, an Algerian, whose christian prayers made Farida long to be like her. Finally, there came a day in her life when she accepted Christ as her Saviour.

Then came the climax to this simple but moving service: "Farida,

I baptise you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

NOW there is strong evidence of Satan's counterattack.

Farida seemed very withdrawn during Elsie's last visit to the home. Whether this be a teenage mood, or whether the pressure from her family is having its effect, we're not sure. Kamel says that his parents have forbidden him to come here any more. We have arranged to meet in town, although he still comes here occasionally. We have heard of an attack over the Constantine radio station against Bible correspondence courses and indirectly against us, but have no further confirmation of the truth or untruth of the report. No one outside of the missionary team has been at the worship service for the last two weeks. And believers have not come to the believers' club for which we had such high hopes.

There seemed to be favourable developments in Guelma, although there were indications upon our last visit there that Abdessalem was drawing back from the bold stand he had taken. We were planning on going to see Mohamed Tahar's father about his being baptised. Then this morning comes a letter from M.T. saying not to come and giving indication of drastic draw-back on his part. He says that Abdessalem has completely renounced his faith and that he himself no longer has the same will spiritually as before. He was facing opposition from his father when we last saw him. That opposition has probably stiffened and been

coupled with some strong muslim brain-washing. M.T. stated that it was not yet time to be baptised and spoke of being very discouraged and confused.

And so the pattern seems to be repeated. Is it that the majority of those who profess faith from Islam are "stony ground" converts and cannot be expected to stand? Or is it that Islam is actually too strong for the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ except in a few cases where an individual may possess an exceptionally strong will? Or is it that we are yet failing to bring professing believers into the fulness of the power which is theirs in Christ and therefore are not equipping them to stand in the day of persecution? Our Lord Himself posed the question, "How can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?" The strong man of Islam is determined that we shall not spoil his goods and seems to mock us as he trips up and ensnares those who seem to be the most completely escaped from his clutches. We know that Jesus Christ did bind that strong man, first in His life, then in His death. Hebrews 2:14, 15 tells us that so clearly. But is it that we are failing in identification with that victory in our lives and very especially in our intercession, the one means by which we apply that binding and spoiling to the lives of those to whom we minister? I feel quite strongly that the latter is the key to the matter. But we seem unable to "pray through". We so very much need your supporting intercession, strengthening believers and strengthening us to pray effectively so as to be able to minister effectively.

Fresh Opportunities

ALMA STRAUTINS

DURING the last months here some small yet discouraging things have happened, such as a cool attitude towards the Gospel in homes where once a warm welcome was given. Some families and individuals with whom friendly contacts had been established have left the town, some Bible Correspondence Course girl students have become engaged to young fellows who have no interest in spiritual matters. It may look as if one has to start the work all over again from scratch!

However, the Lord has not left us without some bright spot on the seemingly dull scenery. I am particularly thankful for Friday afternoons which for several months have been spent with Chafia before the open Bible. She is doing a series of an advanced B.C.C. which requires a real looking into the Scriptures. We have touched some deeper truths about the Second Coming of the Lord, about His Church, and the daily walk of the believer. Chafia was thrilled to discover from the Word of God that she too belongs to the Church of Jesus Christ because she too believes on Him as her Saviour.

These studies at times mean real hard work for her but it is rewarding to see that the Word is beginning to make an impression upon her personal life. She had not been on speaking terms with another girl for many months. Any effort to get them reconciled had been useless. Recently to my surprise she announced that she had gone to see her and that they had been reconciled with one another. When I asked what had made her do that she answered that it was a text read together in our previous Bible study—"Be ye kind one to another, . . . forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

A few months ago two French ladies came to our house asking if we could meet for a time of worship with them on Sunday mornings. As the French Reformed Church in this town had been closed for some years and there was no pastor, we decided to meet in the home of one of these ladies. During the Summer months it was my lot and privilege to share the Word of God with this little group of French speaking people. Since the month of October we have gathered in the French Reformed Church. It is encouraging to see a place of worship open again after its doors had stayed closed for such a long time. Another encouraging thing is that now some of the French ladies have begun to take their turns in giving the message on Sunday mornings. We are about ten adults, most of them teachers in the Government schools. Some have great problems;

broken homes and sin-sick hearts. Pray that our coming together on Sundays may result in their personal meeting with the Saviour and restoration or right relationship with Him.

With the group of adults there are also five children with whom Donna Smith has Sunday School before we have the meeting for the grown-ups. They are children of Protestant parents but with very little knowledge of the Word. They are keen to learn the Truths of the Bible. We praise the Lord for granting us these opportunities to serve Him in this small needy group of Europeans.

R.S.B. REPORTS

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." As we look back we can echo these words of Paul, for, as 1967 began, the Radio School of the Bible had many specific needs which were to be met by the Lord during the course of the year. There was the need of \$30,000 to complete the payment on the headquarters building. All this was supplied and the final payment made on time. Two new professional-quality tape recorders were needed for the recording studio. We were enabled to acquire one of these machines, as the Lord moved many of His children to share with us in this project. A folding machine was needed for the work. This was supplied early last year. A qualified French secretary and a qualified Arabic worker were badly needed. We were able to fill both these posts by the end of October. Plans had been made to expand the radio and literature ministries. By the beginning of April these plans had become realities with the addition of one short-wave and one medium wave broadcast to our Arabic broadcasting schedule, the airing of our first French programme and the publishing of the first issue of the French "Key of Knowledge".

During 1967, we aired 199 quarter-hour programmes over ELWA; of which 156 were in Arabic and 43 in

French, and 191 over Trans World Radio, all in classical Arabic, making a total of 390 programmes of 97½ hours of broadcasting. In response to these broadcasts, we received 552 letters from 27 countries.

In the correspondence course section, we received 9,932 new applications for the courses, while 2,623 were completed.

Four issues of the Arabic "Key of Knowledge" were sent out, along with three of the French version. There was an average of 11,000 copies per issue.

This is something of our physical inventory for 1967. Above and beyond this, there is the spiritual inventory of our work, harder to evaluate, but infinitely more important. There were many letters telling of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people right across the muslim world. An example is the following quotation from a student in Kuwait: "I thank you with all my heart for the encouragement you give me. It helps to know that you pray for me. I desire with all my heart to remember these studies. Please pray for patience, faith and strength too that I will continue in this way all my life, and when I die, go to heaven to be with my Saviour." In addition, many encouraging reports came about some of our students who have found Christ through their study of the Bible and who are now in regular fellowship with groups of Christians in various parts of North Africa.



FROM

HELEN
MORRISS

SEVERAL afternoons in the week I am out visiting—sometimes with a young colleague. My visits take me all over Tunis and some miles out of town as well. It may be a Bible Correspondence Course student I am looking up, or an old class girl. It may be to congratulate a mother on her new baby, or to comfort someone bereaved. And what a variety of homes we enter! One day I am finding my way down one of the amazingly twisty alleyways of the old town, with other little blind alleys branching off it here and there like a maze. Happily the houses are all numbered, but even the numbers jump and twist sometimes like the alleys. Another day, it may be some tiny country hut—such as Dinny Vishanoff and I were in the other day. It was shared by flies and a lively colony of small ants. We were invited to sit on the rickety little bed and two dogs grudgingly made room for us. But the bed seemed to be giving way beneath me, so I preferred to move down on to a bit of cloth spread on the earth floor. The old lady who was our hostess, moved around in these surroundings, so sordid, with quiet serenity and grace. Out of her deep poverty, she yet insisted on sending out to buy tea and a few biscuits for us, and then proceeded to skin the one pomegranate she possessed and serve it to us. She had opened her heart to the Lord many years ago, so when the tea-drinking ceremony was over, she gladly sat down and listened to some Scripture reading and joined us in prayer.

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Family Tragedy

The other day it was her daughter who had sent a request for me to visit her. She lived right down by the port. I found myself in a narrow corridor, open to the sky, with a number of small rooms opening on to it, all the way down, a family in each. There was no privacy whatever. The doors were all open, and anyone passing up or down, could look right in. The room of the woman I was looking for was drab and squalid. The furniture consisted of just one old double bed, and two or three little wooden cupboards. She had been turned out one night by her drunken and depraved husband, without even being allowed to dress herself properly, and was told she was not to return, nor even attempt to come and see her three children. She had stayed away over a month, till finally her husband had fetched her back. But what a home-coming; her two youngest had run wild, and her neighbours had come in and emptied the cupboards of even the few kitchen utensils and dishes she possessed. Her husband at least, was sober for the moment, but during the winter he rarely had any work, and he had a hacking cough and lung trouble. It was the wife who had worked to keep the family, but now during her absence, she had lost her job. One feels so helpless in the face of such human misery. But her spiritual need was even greater than her material need. "Such as I have give I thee." I knew of no work for her. But I could tell her of One Who could heal her soul's sickness and give her new life and hope, and on Whom she could daily cast her burdens. She was a thirsty soul, and she and a young girl from next door listened so earnestly.

Contrast

But not all the homes we visit are poor ones. Another day we were in a comfortable villa in a pleasant garden. The owner is a cousin of the President. There was a T.V., and handsome furniture that made our own homes seem very shabby in comparison. A little servant girl brought us hot chocolate to drink. Usually it is not easy to speak of more vital things in such homes, but the daughter-in-law who received us, was also a thirsty soul, and listened very quietly. Once, when a whole crowd of her relations were there, she had called on me to tell them the story of how God created the world so marvellously and sin entered in to mar it all—a story which had made a great impression on her. We thank God for the openings and help He gives us in testifying "from house to house".

AT present the hospital work is going on. They seem to want us and the hospital, judging by the numbers who come to us, but not our Gospel! It is a frustrating and empty feeling, not to be able to preach the Gospel as before, but we pray that Christ will be seen in our lives, and that we may be alive to every opportunity which may arise to witness to our own faith in Him.

We thank the Lord for His peace at this time, and we are trusting Him to guide us as to the future, knowing that He is in control of the whole situation. Even though it may appear that the enemy is gaining ground, we know that the battle is His, not ours, and there can be no defeat for Him. Victory is assured. We thank Him for all the wonderful promises in His Word, upon which we can rest.

We need to concentrate our prayers more than ever on the Moroccan christians. Pray that they will have a new and deeper sense of responsibility, and learn to lean completely on the Lord and not on us, and be taught by Him. Pray that many more of them will have such a longing for the Lord Himself, and for fellowship, that they will have to come to Him, and to each other, and find different ways of getting together for fellowship, as in the days of the early church, and continue to grow.

You will be glad to hear more news about Hamed Riffi, who had the heart operation in London last year, and for whom many of you have prayed. He seems better these days, and wants to come back and work with us in the hospital. Please continue to uphold him as he takes up this work again, for a few hours at first. Pray that the Lord will use him and bless his testimony.

Please continue to pray for our student nurses and their training, and for wisdom and guidance

about their future, and that they will go on steadily with the Lord. Continue to pray for Habeeba, the nurse whom we had to dismiss, that she may repent and come back to the Lord, and be delivered from



this wrong relationship before it is too late. She has today come back to work in the hospital, in out-patients. At the instigation of this wicked man she is involved with she sued us on a false accusation, which we were able to disprove, but the court ruled that we had no legal right to dismiss her. We knew this could happen, and were prepared for it, but we had to stand by our principles. Pray that her coming back to us will be for her good spiritually, and that she will be convicted of her sin, and seek deliverance.

We can look back with great thankfulness to the Lord for all He has done, and for allowing us to continue to serve Him here, and for leading us on and meeting our needs in so many wonderful and unexpected ways. It has been thrilling to see Him work.

Lilian Goodacre

TANGIER, MOROCCO

Today in school one of my first year students asked his partner if I would fast in Ramadan. I replied that I did not fast, and I thought again how meagre their knowledge of christianity is. I also thought that soon we shall be in that month

of Ramadan when my students do such poor work and are so sleepy because they stay up late at night and don't eat between sunrise and sunset.

How quickly time has passed

of my students through starting an English Club for those who are advanced enough and interested. There are many possible activities for such a group but it is difficult to get even a small group estab-

from the Prayer Letters

since I was at home in September. I was so glad to see many of you and visit your churches, even if it was only a brief stay. It was good to be able to explain to you what I am doing so that you can be praying for my witness in this large city. On my return flight I was able to visit a Tunisian girl, Souad, now working in Paris. She once lived with Alma Strautins and myself in Tunis. She is tender toward the Lord and would greatly profit from a christian friend and from teaching from the Word. Pray that such a friend may be provided.

I was reminded upon my return that my position here is completely of God. For during a few hours it was not certain that I would have my job. Someone had assumed that I had returned to the States permanently. A telephone call to Tunis and the fact that a vacancy existed assured me of having my former place. Those few hours of uncertainty cast me back again on the Lord.

Schoolwork keeps me busy, but my schedule is much better than that of last year. I have one less class and four afternoons a week completely free. Thus I am able to visit more friends and to take part in the girls' Bible Class one afternoon a week. I am also hoping to develop more contact with some

lished. They come once or twice out of curiosity and then get caught up in their round of studies, sports, and movies. God alone has power to bring those of His choice and keep them coming. Pray for this.

Donna Smith
TUNIS, TUNISIA

It was wonderful to see our Arab friends again and to see how the Lord has been blessing in the work. There has been an increase in the number of Bible Correspondence Course girl students and we are now well launched into regular Bible studies for them, both here in Oran and in Al Asnam. We are following Barnhouse's "Teaching the Word of Truth", preparing written questions for the girls to answer. They seem to enjoy studying like this but their attendance is very irregular and fluctuates between twelve and four. The girls at Al Asnam seem very open and eager to learn.

Visits to homes take as much time as we can give them. Being three now, we are able to get round to see folk a little more frequently and the new (old) car is a great blessing. The children's meetings are a joy. We change over age

groups every month and I have just moved over to the "primary department". They are so cute and look like little angels with their big brown eyes. The illusion soon wears off though! They love to sing "Yes, Jesus loves me" in Arabic, French and English. I wish you could hear them. We seem to have lost the older boys, but still pray for them that the truth they have heard and memorised will stay alive and yet bear fruit.

There have been a number of interruptions in our regular routine and extra activities, notably the annual two-weekly Industrial Fair. The Baptist missionary here in Oran was again able to rent a stand, and we helped out by working daily 3-hourly shifts. Altogether 119 Bibles, 119 New Testaments and some 4,000 smaller Scripture portions were sold. A number of

young fellows came up to the stand to tell us that they are doing the B.C.C., many hundreds of new leaflets were given out so now we look to the Lord for the harvest. The testimony of consecutive years at the Fair is making an impact in breaking down resistance and creating an acceptance of the Word of God. This year was remarkable for the lack of opposition and for those who came and asked directly for a New Testament or for the "Life of Jesus". Several new young men have started to attend the Sunday evening Arabic meeting since the Fair. There are now about twelve Arabs who attend regularly. Please pray for Salah, the Algerian christian who leads this meeting. He is very courageous in his preaching of the Truth.

Muriel Butcher
ORAN, ALGERIA

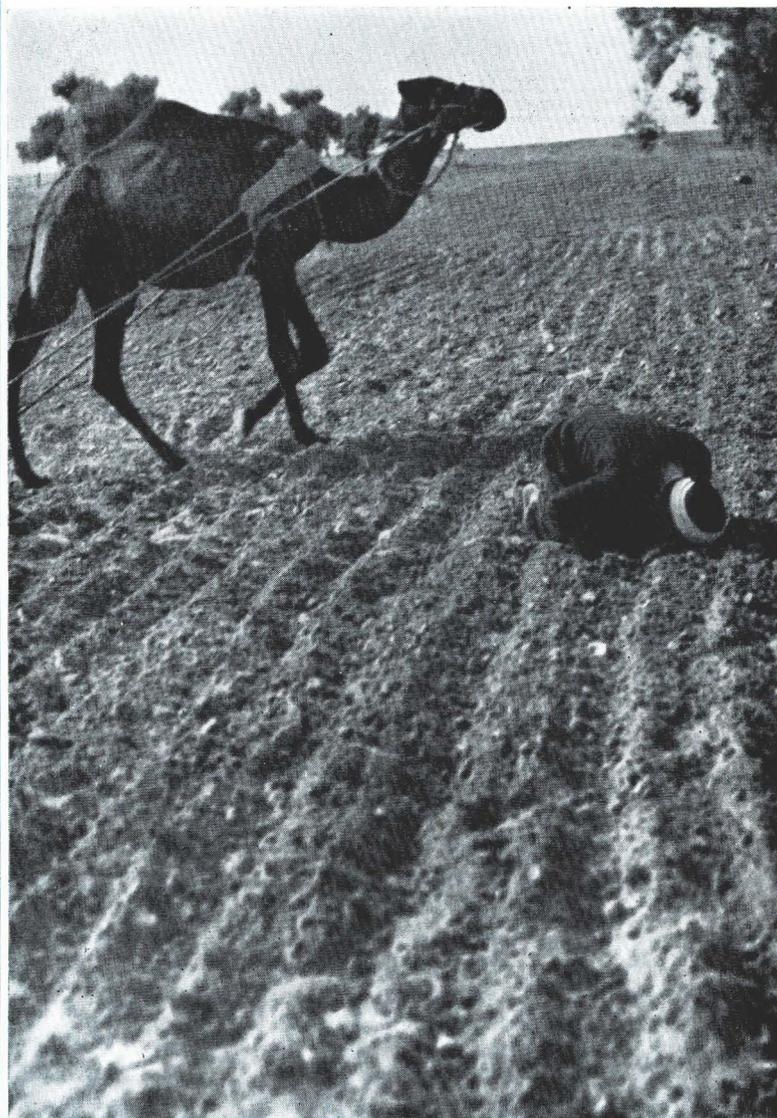
PRAYER CALENDAR

We would like to honour those who have served the Lord in North Africa in past days but are now retired, and we do so by printing their names below. This list can also be used by those who desire to remember the Retired Workers monthly in prayer.

Retired Workers. Miss N. Andrew (1945), Miss E. Bradbury (1929), Miss G. Carty (1939), Miss M. E. Chipperfield (1945), Miss A. Clack (1924), Miss W. Drury (1929), Mr. F. Ewing (1932) and Mrs. Ewing (1931), Mrs. E. Fisher (1922), Miss E. Harman (1921), Miss D. Henman (1935), Miss E. Higid (1921), Miss V. Houghton, Mrs. J. W. Kent (1948), Mrs. E. L. Liley (1919), Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Long (1923), Miss E. Low (1931), Mr. R. S. Miles (1921), Mrs. R. S. Miles (1926), Mrs. P. Padilla (1922), Miss E. Prideaux (1948), Miss K. Reed (1922), Miss D. Richardson (1945), Mrs. A. Ross (1902), Mrs. T. J. P. Warren (1911), Mrs. A. G. Wilson (1922).

Retired Workers. S.M.M.: Mr. J. Haldane (1912), Mrs. J. Haldane (1913), Miss C. Pollock (1936). **In U.S.A.:** Miss E. Brookes (1932). **In France:** Mrs. S. Arthur (1923). **In Switzerland:** Miss I. Couleru (1923).

Retired Workers, A.M.B.: Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Buckenham (1920), Miss E. Clark (1947), Miss A. M. Farmer (1914), Miss M. D. Grautoff (1907), Miss A. E. Powell (1951), Miss V. A. C. Wood (1920).



MUSLIM AT PRAYER

IT wasn't dark, it wasn't light; it wasn't day, it wasn't night. What time was it? And what was it that had roused her? Gradually she became fully conscious of her surroundings and of the strange noise. Of course, now she knew. Often she had read about it, heard about it, but this was her first real experience of the early call to prayer from the muslim mosque.

The scene was set in a room of a good sized house in an Algerian seaside town. The house was not far from the mosque. No one could sleep through the penetrating sound of the call to prayer. As the cry continued to ring out she began to wonder exactly the meaning of the words. Later she would ask the girls who had come to spend a holiday there. They were all from muslim homes and to them the call had been familiar from their earliest days. This led her to picture to herself the scene then being enacted in countless homes. Very occasionally a whole family would have answered the call, maybe only the father had heeded. She imagined one man rolling sleepily from his blanket, grasping his way to the courtyard. Pouring water into a vessel he was washing his eyes, his ears, his nose, his mouth, his hands, his feet. "Yes", she thought, "outwardly clean!" Now she pictured him, shoeless, as he stood upon the prayer mat, facing east toward the holy city of Mecca. He was speaking, repeating words from the Holy Book, the Koran. He was kneeling, his forehead touched the ground, he sat back on his heels and all the time the recitation continued. Twenty minutes passed away and it was over. What next would this devout muslim do?

There was no time for her to continue her imaginary glimpse into the muslim's day. Her day was beginning and it would be well-filled. Reaching for her Bible she read from it, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Familiar words they were, but somehow more than ever filled with meaning. She longed that the girls with whom she would be living for the next two weeks would come to understand and appropriate them. Her thoughts went to other words as she prayed even as the Lord Jesus Himself had done—"that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

This first morning was special; the very first morning of camp. Nearby the cry rang out, "Ya sphinj; ya sphinj." Two of the girls were already on their way to buy enough of these strange-sounding

things for breakfast. She caught up with them and watched, fascinated, as they were made. The maker had a great container of batter. Deftly he dropped some into the great vessel of boiling oil, neatly turning it to form a ring. Quickly it changed to a lovely golden colour. When enough were ready they all hurried back to the house, to the others eagerly waiting with the coffee prepared. A shake of sugar on each sphinj and they just vanished as with laughter and talking breakfast time came and went.

After the routine jobs had been done there was the Bible Study Hour. Some of the girls were christians. They had eagerly awaited this holiday. It was stimulating yet relaxing to spend two weeks with christians. Each was a challenge to the other. The opportunities to study God's Word together, to reach out to those who were as yet only interested—these were stimulating things. On the other hand, it was so good to be free, for a short while, from the stresses and pressures and temptations of life at home.

One girl voiced a surprising idea. "When I woke this morning and heard the call from the mosque I wondered if maybe we should obey it!" What did she mean? As she saw the varied expressions on the faces of the leaders and other christian girls she hurried on. "Oh, I don't mean to say muslim prayers. But surely if they can get up so early to say prayers we could get together to pray to God for them." And so it came about. For two weeks christian girls in the muslim community, awakened by the call from the mosque, got up and together prayed for their country, their friends, their families. What would the man on the minaret say if he knew!

What did he call, anyway? "God is great; God is great. To pray is better than to sleep. There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the apostle of God. Come to prayer ye faithful." "Ye faithful." Yes, these girls had determined that they would be faithful, faithful to the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He had sent.

BIBLE SCHOOL

AT A RECENT 5-day Bible School for girls in which we participated along with other missionaries, an average of 12-14 young women met each morning for the Bible classes, followed by a tasty national dish at mid-day and an afternoon of relaxation and handicraft. Not exactly a camp programme as some of the girls had been used to in previous years, but a time

geared especially for christians. The Lord blessed and we all felt that it had been a really profitable time. This type of short term Bible School is something we would like to see expanded in future days, both for fellows and girls, as the Lord leads.

One of the very difficult doctrines for muslims to accept is that of the Trinity. Therefore we devoted a special course to this matter. This raises the subject of the deity of Christ and the

Biblical doctrine of God which is so contrary to Islamic thought. Sometimes we wonder if the use of the word "Allah" for God doesn't complicate the basic meaning. In our thinking it means the great, loving Triune Jehovah; to them it is the despotic Almighty of the Koran. To say that God is three Persons but one Being is bad enough, but to say that One of these Persons became flesh, and that He died and that He rose again is, to the unconverted muslim, utter nonsense. Jesus Christ is the key that unlocks it all, so we persist in presenting His deity and His work and life. Once they in faith believe this, the Lord grants further enlightenment.

In spite of the fact that all the

girls who attended the school professed to be Christians there were several who had never really faced up to these questions, so much discussion went on throughout the day concerning them. It made us realise again how inadequate any human explanation of this subject is—unless the Holy Spirit teaches them, our words are in vain. But we praise the Lord that most of the girls said this issue was much clearer to them at the end of our week together than it had ever been before. How often we take for granted that certain things are understood without really making sure! This is another reason why we feel that such a teaching ministry in this country would be valuable.

PERMIT ME TO SHARE A NOTE.

DORIS E. BROWN

MISSIONARY: Troubles in the land. Certain ones being forced by authorities to cease their activities. What is the value of trying to carry on?

NATIONALS: I want to believe like my three girls. They read the Word of God every night. I can't read, but they read and help me to understand. I want to believe in my heart.

VALUE?

1. A prepared heart — and many other women and girls "sitting at the riverside" as it were (Acts 16: 13, 14.) A mother!
2. Young women in the making of becoming women of God. Three sisters!
3. Girls coming to our home for Bible study, supper and overnight every two weeks as from November 4th.
4. An all day retreat for young women of Casablanca. A young married christian woman from Casablanca will direct the meeting and a more mature christian woman from Rabat will give the Bible message.

NEWS

HAROLD W. STALLEY

Mr. H. W. Stalley was given permission by the authorities to return to Morocco for two weeks to wind up his personal affairs. Apart from a two hour delay at the frontier, all went smoothly. The timing of the visit was perfect as it coincided with a day of prayer in Tangier and in addition much useful discussion was possible concerning the encouraging possibilities despite the restrictions.

WHITSUNTIDE CONFERENCE 1st—3rd JUNE

It is not possible to hold this conference any longer at Heightside but we have been offered the use of a delightful centre in Matlock, Derbyshire. The facilities and the surroundings are superb and it is anticipated that many friends will now come from the Midlands, as well as from the south, who have been unable to join us in the more northern centre. We welcome your fellowship. Do write soon.

DR. JANET ST. JOHN

Dr. Janet is slowly recovering from a serious operation which was performed in Tangier. In a very particular way she and her husband, Dr. Farnham St. John, would value our prayers.

MRS. T. J. P. WARREN

Mrs. Warren, who unfortunately fell and broke her femur just before Christmas is making a remarkable recovery. We thank God for her prayers and wish her a happy convalescence.

HOPE HOUSE

Lois Morriss has returned to her duties in Tangier. We are most grateful for her challenging deputation ministry. There is still need of a couple to act as host and hostess in Hope House. By the way, have you thought of a summer holiday in Tangier? Hope House would welcome you.

MRS. A. STRAUTINS

Special prayer is requested for our sister who has been unwell and who will be coming to the United Kingdom this year. Mrs. Strautins has not seen her family in the former Latvia since 1936 and hopes to make a further attempt to see them during these coming months.

RETURNED TO THE FIELD

Miss Winifred Davey (Casablanca) and Miss Lois Morriss (Tangier).

ON FURLOUGH

Miss G. Theakston.

RETIREMENT

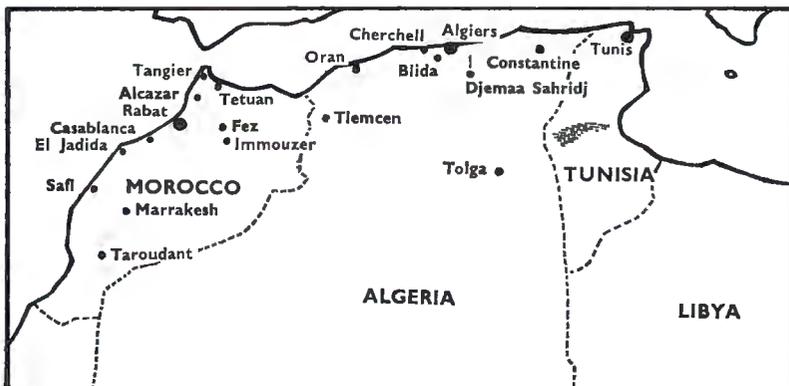
Mr. and Mrs. F. Ewing retired from the work at the end of last year. An article will appear in the next issue.

MR. R. W. WITHERS

It has been a joy to welcome Mr. Withers to the London Council. Mr. Withers served in North Africa during World War II and has taken close and practical interest in the work ever since, particularly as a member of the A.M.B. Home Advisory Council.

GUIDED GIVING

We record with gratitude to God that it was possible to send full allowances for the months of January and February.



Secretary General
REV. HAROLD W. STALLEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS

REV. ARTHUR COFFEY
L. B. MOSTYN DAVIES
WILLIAM R. FRAMPTON
ERNEST J. LONG
JOHN MACDONALD
REV. MAURICE RICHARDS
DR. PHILIP RIGBY
REV. GODFREY C. ROBINSON
(Chairman)
REV. RONALD J. WAINE
HERBERT C. WILSON
RAYMOND W. WITHERS

General Secretary:
A. DOUGLAS PILCHER

Magazine Editors:
REV. ROBERT I. BROWN
REV. ROBERT GILBERT

Home Secretary:
REV. ROBERT I. BROWN

Hon. Treasurer:
WILLIAM R. FRAMPTON

forward

CONTENTS

BIND THE STRONG MAN	114
<i>Kay Castle & Wendell Evans</i>	
FRESH OPPORTUNITIES	116
<i>Alma Strautins</i>	
R.S.B. REPORTS	117
FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE	118
<i>Helen Morriss</i>	
YOUTH PAGE	124
BIBLE SCHOOL	125
PERMIT ME TO SHARE A NOTE	126
<i>Doris E. Brown</i>	

MARCH/APRIL 1968, NO. 79. 'FORWARD' ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDING POSTAGE, 4s.0d. FROM THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION (WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED THE SOUTHERN MOROCCO MISSION AND ALGIERS MISSION BAND), 34 BISHAM GARDENS, LONDON N.6. TEL. 01-340 3823. PRINTED BY OSCAR BLACKFORD LTD., TRURO, CORNWALL.