

forward

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION

The Government is on His Shoulder

WE ARE doubtless all familiar with the majestic verse in chapter nine of Isaiah from which this particular phrase is taken but are we as familiar with the context? The nation is increased but without joy. Its condition is likened to the litter of a battlefield; arms, armour and garments rolled in blood, while sullen fires burn on the darkening scene. These particular verses, of course, have the coming of the Messiah in view and are applied to Him in Matthew 4: 13-16 but how true they are of the world in which we live and so characteristic of that part of Africa which is entrusted to us. We have known a great deal in various ways of the unrelenting opposition of the Adversary with all the darkness and confusion which he delights to spread.

Then in our passage comes a startling revelation of Christ, humanity's hope and expectancy. It is the grandest prophetic utterance concerning Christ in the whole Book. A Child born, a Son given; here is His humanity. The government is to be on His shoulder; here is His Kingly office and rule. His Great Names; here is His deity, unmistakable and clear. Apart from these great declarations, how confused and meaningless world events and North African events would be but here is the declaration which transforms everything. "The government shall be upon His shoulder". Nothing surprises Him, nothing happens without His wise and loving control. All things are under His control and work together for good



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to them that love Him, whose name is "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

The prophet further encourages us with the reminder that just in proportion to the increase of His government will be the increase of our peace. As the one extends so does the other. The more we deliberately submit to His rule and government and renounce our own puny wisdom and strength so do we increasingly know the peace which passes all understanding. The government is upon His shoulder. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.

NEWS

GUIDED GIVING

Readers will remember that we were only able to send two thirds of full allowances for the month of October. We thank God that we were able to make up this shortage. We were also able to send full allowances for the months of November and December.

SAILING DATES

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dobson and Mr. Stephen Trowbridge will be leaving, God willing, on Monday, 6th January 1969, for language study in Montpellier.

Miss Pauline Kirkwood will be leaving for the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier on 13th January, for one year.

RETURN TO FIELD

Miss K. Castle, Miss L. Hugli and Mrs. A. Strautins are due to return to the Field in January.

PONDER this paragraph from the introduction to the biography of J. O. Fraser, missionary to China. "Readers of 'Behind the Ranges' will discover that it was not primarily Fraser's energetic evangelism and wise counsel that made his work so effective. It was his emphasis on prayer in his own life and his gift of fostering prayer groups in the homeland. This constant prayer barrage covered the whole operation, protecting it from the deadly fire of Satan's forces. Surely here lies the secret of a truly successful missionary enterprise."

*David & Mary Lou Goldmann
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO*

New problems have arisen recently concerning permits to work, as some of you already know. Over a year ago, Dr. Campbell returned from furlough and had to re-apply for his medical permit which he had lost through being out of the country for more than six months while doing a special course in surgery. He has now suddenly been refused this permit and has had to stop medical work. He has made an appeal against this refusal.

Also Barbara Lister applied for a nursing permit over a year ago when she joined us after language study. She has now been told she must stop nursing until her permit is obtained. Barbara is just about to go home on furlough while awaiting this permit, praying and trusting it will be through by the time she returns in six months!

The wonderful thing is that Satan's restrictions have, in the last few weeks, given Barbara more liberty, as being freed from hospital work, she was able to give much more time to visitation and personal evangelism. (She wasn't told not to do that!) Also Dr.

Campbell now has more time to do many things outside the realm of medicine, for which he had no time before, and is still able to help in the hospital in many ways. Doctors here in T.M.H. do so

Then there is the Evangelical Assembly. Our roster of activities is beginning to sound like that of churches around the world: the weekly meeting on Sunday afternoon, Sunday School for three age

From the Prayer Letters

many other things besides doctoring, so he is not idle.

At the same time, this is a very serious handicap to our hospital work. Dr. St. John and his wife, Dr. Janet, now have to carry a much heavier load. So they need our prayers very much. We need much heavenly wisdom for the planning of the hospital work during this time of difficulty and pressure.

*Lilian Goodacre
TANGIER, MOROCCO*

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Already we feel the need to expand the Student Centre. Please pray about our negotiations with the owner of the little store adjacent to the Centre. He seems to feel that all Americans have endless financial resources, in spite of all we have tried to make clear about the N.A.M. not being an oil company! The price he is asking for the privilege of becoming his tenants is incredible. We are looking forward to new beginnings for the Conversation Club and the English Bible Study. Pray about the visit that Mr. David Bentley-Taylor will be making to North Africa in January in the interest of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.



groups, a mid-week Bible study, a class for those preparing for baptism, prayer meetings, social activities, etc. This may sound very everyday to you, but to us it's all rather exciting to see a church fellowship take form. Among those preparing for baptism are Hamid and Yamina, two young people who got acquainted while they worked as counsellors in the Cherchell camps. They have announced their engagement and the Church is sharing their joy.

Dar Naama, the large Turkish-style, house which has been a Mission centre for years has been sold. This means that a new meeting place for the Church must be found. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the next move could be to a property rented by the Church itself, rather than something that is Mission-owned? That's something to pray about.

*Ruth Stewart
ALGIERS, ALGERIA*

A New Chapter

IT IS now one year since we returned from furlough. At that time we little realised what was ahead of us. We simply had this Word from the Lord to our hearts before returning: "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." John 13:7. Therefore with confidence in Him we returned to a land which, as far as our Mission was concerned, had seen quite eventful happenings and changes during our furlough period.

On arrival here it was soon made clear to us that we would not be allowed to carry on active missionary work as in the past. A new chapter had to be commenced. It was interesting and challenging therefore to have some Moroccan Christians suggest to us that we open up part of our Mission home as a hotel. This sounded strange and rather a large undertaking. The fact is however that now after some eight months of hard work the upstairs rooms have been converted into guest rooms. These rooms along with other available rooms now make it possible for us to accommodate about thirty guests. We like to think of this place as a Christian guest house as far as possible. However, the local authorities must register us as a hotel. As a result of all this work we had a visit of heads of departments concerned some weeks ago. They were most favourably impressed and we have now been informed that we are officially recognised.

We had a busy summer. Apart

from the regular meetings for worship and Bible study there have been holidaymakers from different parts of the country. During the summer months the population of El Jadida doubles itself. Many, if not most, of the visitors are from Marrakesh some 160 miles away inland. The many miles of beautiful sandy beaches are a great attraction here. As a result of this yearly invasion we too have a good share of visitors and friends dropping in to see us or even stay a few days with us. We had numerous opportunities of witnessing. In addition there was a short Daily Vacation Bible School held here. That was a busy but blessed week. Apart from the numerous meetings each day there was much work in connection with the meals, washing and cleaning, etc. We really believe that the girls who came along were greatly helped. We are hoping that this will be possible again.

More could be said and there remains much more to be done. We are grateful to the Lord for the help of a Moroccan Christian here who has done so much for us and the work on the Mission property. His reward is sure.

This is but a brief account of how matters are with us here in El Jadida. We still do not quite see what the future holds for us but we do ask you to go on praying for us and for the contacts we have in this city and numerous other places we visit from time to time.

BERNARD COOKMAN

ROYAL SERVICE

JESSIE STALLEY

THE formidable list of names in the first book of Chronicles might discourage a would-be reader who had opened his Bible just there! If, however, one takes the trouble to press through the strange and sometimes almost unpronounceable array, one finds the most intriguing and interesting details concerning families and individuals tucked away between paragraphs. Such is the note concerning the sons of Chozeba—"these were the potters, and those that dwelt among plants and hedges"—gardeners and nurserymen probably, ordinary men, with ordinary jobs, but, the record continues, "there they dwelt with the king for his work". It was **royal** service and they were apparently never far from the presence of the king himself.

What an encouraging word for those who, having volunteered for "royal service" on the mission field, find themselves sitting behind a typewriter, turning the handle of a duplicating machine, writing receipts and checking through lists of figures, interviewing authorities, sorting out problems of various kinds, writing endless letters of counsel, comfort and direction, even, if need be, looking for lodgings and for the most economical type of furniture! For the wife, it may be, life seems to be chiefly made up of shopping, preparing meals and taking the children to and from school—things perhaps not even so interesting as working "among plants and hedges"! Was it for this that the Lord accepted me when I gave my life to Him for "royal service"?

But someone has to do these jobs! Otherwise the Mission could not function. Without a co-ordinating ministry and a guiding hand the result could be inefficient chaos! Even the apostle Paul realised this in the earliest days of the church, recognising that God had appointed His servants to their differing tasks according to their several abilities and capacities. Should anyone then question the Divine wisdom which has directed to the individual task?

There were many heart-searchings when it was first suggested that the field administration of the North Africa Mission should be transferred to the south of France. Was not our call to the North African field, our main objective the building of Christ's church in those lands? Should we not be "out of touch" if this ministry were to be moved out of the country?

God has many ways of making known His will, and as pressures in North Africa increased, it seemed very possible that one day we might be forced out. Would it not be better to move at our own time without waiting for an ultimatum?

God's very evident leading in the setting up of the Radio School of the Bible in Marseilles, His wonderful provision of property and personnel, was an encouragement to seek similar guidance for the

transfer of the Field office. Two years ago the decision was made and we waited for the moving of "the cloudy pillar" to indicate both the time and the place for the change.

In 1967, the International Council felt that the time had come to set up an International office in Europe, and Mr. Stalley, now Secretary-General, moved over to Aix-en-Provence for that purpose in October last year. This university town was chosen because of its proximity to Marseilles and the international airport of Marignane as well as for its potentialities for strategic evangelistic and other ministries. God wonderfully guided also to two suitable apartments to house his office and helper. A year later the time had come to move Field Headquarters also out of Casablanca. We prayed much for suitable accommodation, and search was made in many places in the Marseilles region. In Aix nothing seemed to be available which we could rent or buy. In Aubagne, however, a small town equi-distant from Aix and Marseilles, two vacant apartments at a reasonable price were found and purchased. So first of all the Treasurer's office was installed, with Mr. Clarence Adams in charge and Miss Gladys Fox his assistant. Later came Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Collinson and Miss Win Davey from Casablanca.

"Why Aix-en-Provence? Why Aubagne?" Those concerned with the finding of accommodation would probably reply, "It was a case of 'I, being in the way (of God's will), the Lord led me'". With such an assurance, there is peace. There is also a very real sense of being in these places "with the King, for His work". In Aix the French Protestant pastor whose church we attend has said again and again, "You were sent as an answer to our prayers." It has been the same in Aubagne. A small evangelical group in that town had lost a valued helper and the coming of a group of like-minded Christian workers seemed to them also God's answer to their prayers.

In addition to the routine work of the offices, God has opened up avenues of service—contacts with students, preaching, hospital visitation—all very rewarding. Closer fellowship can now be maintained with the team of the Radio School of the Bible and its far-reaching ministry. The monthly day of prayer when burdens and joys are shared from all over the Field makes us feel very near to those we have had to leave behind in North Africa. In fact we are no further from the outlying parts of our Field here in the south of France than we were in Casablanca, and both Mr. Stalley and Mr. Collinson have been able to visit and minister there during recent months.

On October 25th, a very happy service of dedication was held in the new offices at Aubagne. Tracing the events which had led up to this change of situation for the Field Headquarters, Mr. Stalley reaffirmed that our main objective is still the formation of the church of Jesus Christ **in North Africa**. If sometimes we are tempted to discouragement at the apparent slowness of the fulfilment of the vision, we must remember that "HE" (the Servant of Jehovah) who is our Lord and Leader, "shall not fail nor be discouraged" (Isaiah 42: 4) until the task is done. Neither need we.

QUESTING SPIRITS

HELEN MORRISS



THE SCENE is a tiny court-yard in an Arab home off the narrowest of streets in the heart of the Tunis bazaars. It is 9.30 on a warm Saturday night in early August. Sitting on mats on the floor are a young mother and father, several small children, the grandmother, and some of her teenage children, all eyes fixed on the whitewashed wall where pictures are appearing. The young mother, Delilah, was a wild lively girl in our embroidery classes ten or eleven years ago. She did not learn much embroidery but she never forgot the patience and love shown her, and she loved the Bible stories. She was married at fifteen to an Algerian, who is now working at the Algerian Embassy in Paris. So Delilah has settled there, and they had just come on a brief visit to her mother in Tunis. I remembered she was coming, and called to see her. She was just going

out when I arrived, so we agreed I should come Saturday evening after supper — "And bring some pictures for the children to see", she said. Here I was, therefore, with my projector and two film strips. First, a Jungle Doctor story, with the animals to interest the little ones and a pointed message that the older ones could not fail to catch. Then the story of Isaac. And from the pictures where he climbed the mount of sacrifice with his father, how simply one could pass on to say, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

The audience sat very quiet till the pictures ended, and then everyone began to think of bed, so I withdrew. But how wonderfully the Lord had led me to remember Delilah, and given me that opportunity just in time. The next week she had gone.

Later in August. A very different scene, some miles south

of Tunis; a primitive country cottage set amidst orchards of vines and fig trees, off a sandy lane winding down to the sea. I am sitting under the shade of a vine outside the cottage door, several friendly teenagers before me, while the mother disappears to pick me a huge basin full of grapes. I had had a most refreshing week in a quiet hotel on the edge of the sea; and now it was my last afternoon, and I had come to say goodbye to these new friends I had made in my country strolls. They lived in the neighbouring town, but spent their summer holidays there, helping pick (and eat) the grapes in their father's vineyard.

"Why don't you become a Muslim?" said the eldest boy.

"Why should I?" I said. "Are Muslims better than Christians?"

"Oh, no!" said one of the girls. "They have far more sins."

So I pulled out a picture of the first garden (for it all began in a garden) and asked them if they knew how sin had entered into the world, and into the heart of man. Some of the story they knew, with Muslim variations but they had never heard before of how sin could be atoned for or overcome. To me, these teenagers represented the questing spirits of the young Tunisians of today. Education is opening their minds, and though most are scarcely prepared to throw off the faith of their forefathers, yet they are no longer content to accept it blindly and without criticism. What a privilege it is to be here in this land, in this day of opportunity.

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. Higbid (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), 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). **In U.S.A.:** Miss E. Brookes (1932). **In France:** Mrs. S. Arthur (1923).

Retired Workers. S.M.M.: Mr. J. Haldane (1912), Mrs. J. Haldane (1913), Miss C. Pollock (1936). **In Switzerland:** Miss I. Couleru (1923).

Retired Workers, A.M.B.: 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).

“Is it Really the Whole Bible?”

MURIEL BUTCHER

ALL OVER the Fair pavilion, stall-holders were making the same complaint — “People are not buying much this year.” There was no lack of people; plenty of young men, white-veiled women and children, walking around looking at exhibits, but they didn’t seem to buy much more than a cream cake and a Coca-Cola.

Once again, for the fifth successive year, the “Maison de la Bible” offered the Word of God at minimal prices and it did one’s heart good just to see it on sale in this Muslim country. But we too were making the same comment — sales were far lower than last year. Nevertheless a total of 80 Bibles, 63 New Testaments, 894 Gospels and Acts, 442 Old Testament portions and 71 New Testament portions were sold, plus 28 tear-off Gospel calendars for 1969.

An unusual feature of this year’s witness was that thirteen of the Bibles sold were in Russian. Some of these customers were really excited to find the Bible in their own language. One lady’s eyes brimmed with tears as she handled the “forbidden Book”. A father of a young family asked incredulously, “Is it really the whole Bible?” We have heard that Russia has rented the large Mediterranean naval and mili-

tary base just outside of Oran. Whatever this means politically, we rejoice to know that in coming to a Muslim country, some of these people have managed to procure a copy of the Word of God. Please pray for them and for the Arabs who bought all the rest of the literature, that they will read their purchases and accept their Message. Pray too for all the Bible Correspondence Course slips distributed, that more young people will begin a serious study of the Bible.

If they bought less, maybe they talked more. This, at any rate, was the opinion of Salah, the young Christian Algerian who was seldom absent from his place behind the counter. Supported by other young Christian men, he maintained that more useful conversations had been held this year because missionaries stayed in the background. They had to put up with a good deal of bantering and disapproval, but their very presence gave rise to questions and they had many opportunities to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for these young men that by life and word they will maintain a good testimony, and for those to whom they spoke that they will begin to think seriously about the claims of Christ.

ETHEL BROWN

"**O**H, yes. I've heard about him. When he was a little boy he made clay birds and when he tossed them into the air they flew away, didn't they?"

"My grandfather says that he was a good man and a prophet. One day he will come to earth again and he will marry and have a family."

"But in our Holy Book we read that they did not kill him; they did not crucify him but a likeness was made for them."

"Yes, and anyway our Prophet is greater because he came later and the last must be the greatest."

What a strange muddle it all was. How much easier it would be to teach boys and girls about Jesus Christ if they had never heard His Name.

Hard Ground

The ground was very hard. Fareeda wanted so much to come to learn embroidery and knitting but she had no intention of listening to the teaching of the foreigners. She would take what she wanted and no more. Can you guess what Fareeda was like when the children sang hymns, learnt Bible verses and listened to the Bible lesson? Always there would be a sudden noise, a little giggling, some interruption with Fareeda as the beginner of it. It really seemed as though her heart was so hard that not one piece of God's good news ever sank in. Years passed by and many people prayed for Fareeda. She began to fear the future as she grew up. Her older sister had been married and divorced twice; she was not happy. And so today Fareeda of the hard heart now turns to those who can teach her of the Sower who sows the Good Seed of His Word.

Stoney Ground

The ground was full of stones. Malika always came early; she was clean and tidy. Malika loved to stay to put away the embroidery, to sweep and dust, to talk and sometimes to sing the hymns again. Malika would come gladly at extra time to prepare vegetables and help when there was a special occasion. Surely the old ideas were

being rooted out, the truths of the Lord Jesus Christ were taking root and growing.

"No! I won't take out those stitches! That edging is good enough!" Malika flung down her work and sulked for the rest of the day. Next morning she picked it up and began to embroider. "But, Malika, you must take out those terrible stitches or everything will be spoiled. We shall never be able to sell it and then you will not have enough money for camp." Once again she spent the rest of the morning sulking. And while she sulked all the wrong ideas she had learnt at home crowded into her mind. She would not sing the hymns, or listen to the message any more. But Malika found she couldn't do this. Jealousy, sulkiness, the old ideas, were as great stones in the ground of her heart and the Good Seed was springing up amongst them. Which would prove the stronger?

Thorns and Thistles

The ground was full of thorns and thistles. Radia often came to the house. She loved to read the Word of God. And when the fast month of Ramadan came round Radia felt quite free to drink coffee with us. Radia was no longer really a Muslim, in fact she said that the Bible was certainly the Word of God. Summertime came and the beach was more attractive than Bible Study. Winter came and Radia learned the joys of ski-ing in the High Atlas mountains. Between times she found the Sunday evening French service a real joy. But then there was an exciting trip to Paris and a family wedding to celebrate. Wistfully Radia turned more and more towards the world. The thistles were choking the Seed.

Prepared Ground

The ground was ready for the Seed. Saadia was troubled by the conflict between the old teaching and the new. But with all her heart she wanted to know and to follow the Truth. The decision was made. It wasn't easy at home. Saadia's Bible Correspondance Course was taken from her. She was sent away from her school but the Good Seed had taken root. Saadia is growing into a strong plant.

Clay birds that flew, a prophet who was not crucified, a book that denies the truth, a world that clamours for attention. 'Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.'

At the time of going to press we have learned that our brother Mr. R. Stanley Miles has been called into the immediate presence of the Lord. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter in their loss. An appreciation of his life and ministry will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

"Exceeding Abundantly Above"

KAY CASTLE

NOW unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." Though we may find that God sometimes does differently from what we ask, it may take time, perhaps a long time, for us to recognize that He does above, beyond and more than all our asking or thinking.

This was my experience in Kabylia nearly three years ago. I could not understand why God had not answered my prayer by sending back two missionaries who seemed to be essential to the work there. However, God had another plan for me too. It was in Algiers, at a regional council meeting, that a colleague made a missionary appeal. He spoke of the wonderful response to the Bible Correspondence Courses in Eastern Algeria, and the consequent need of more missionaries in that area. Wondering where the extra missionaries would come from, I suddenly found myself saying that I would be willing to go to Eastern Algeria if God were to lead in that direction. God did lead, and answered prayer in a way which I now can see to be far beyond anything I had imagined.

Accommodation Search

Despite much prayer and hard searching for accommodation, when I arrived in Constantine nothing really suitable had been found.



A room in a villa already occupied by missionaries was a very temporary solution to the problem. Then a member of the missionary team had hepatitis, and my room was needed for the patient. Several alternatives were suggested for me and my baggage: a room in a hotel, a room in the basement of the villa (used for storage and frig-like in atmosphere), or—the street! At the time it was difficult to appreciate the sense of humour that must have prompted the last suggestion, and I asked meekly (I hope) if I might spend the night in the living-room on a camp bed. Much to my relief this alternative was accepted but later that afternoon came the offer from Rahyma, an Algerian Christian, of a room in her home. It had been suggested earlier, but this definite invitation was perfectly timed of the Lord, leaving no doubt about His leading.

Four very precious months with Rahyma were the proof that God had answered "exceeding abundantly above . . ." Rahyma's husband was working in Algiers at the time, but the pressure of his Muslim relatives was strongly felt. They seemed never to leave his wife alone, and thoroughly disapproved of her attendance at the Sunday services, and the Christian teaching the children were receiving. This led to a threat to persuade the husband to divorce his wife and take the children away from her. Rahyma told me about this and we prayed together. The situation looked dangerous to me. Rahyma was very fond of her five lovely children. How terrible it would be if the relatives carried out the threat. But Rahyma was confident that God would hear her prayer, and He did. The subject of divorce was dropped completely.

The general situation in Algeria has been very encouraging, with the door wide open to the Gospel through the Bible Correspondance Courses, and amazingly little opposition. In Constantine, however, we were aware that not everybody approved of the courses. The villa that God had so wonderfully provided, and in which, by this time, my colleague and I were living, as well as another missionary family, was becoming too well known. On at least one occasion, we and our work were discussed on the local bus. Some Bible Course students had been forbidden to come to the house.

Suddenly God stepped into the situation, but not in a way that we would have expected. The housing department gave us four days notice to leave, stating that our villa was required for an army official. This was staggering news—we could hardly believe it. What staggered us more than anything was the terrific amount of equipment that would have to be moved. So we prayed, confident that if this order to quit was not in God's plan it would be frustrated. In answer to prayer we were allowed eight days to move instead of four, and the housing department offered us two flats in place of the villa. One was suitable and we accepted it, but the other (destined for my colleague and myself) was eight storeys high and without a lift. We were not very sure that we could cope with the daily physical exercise that would be involved, and quite certain that our friends would rarely, if ever, climb eight flights of stairs to visit us.

One of the team suggested that we contact a house agent, who, a year previous, had had nothing to offer us. This time he had a place to show us, and within three hours of contacting him we had rented a suitable flat near the centre of town. Again God had done "exceeding . . . above . . ."

Our main work (when we're not moving house!) has been that of contacting Bible Course students in Constantine, and in five other towns. Those living outside of Constantine have been visited about every four to six weeks, and we have met some very interested young people. One girl has shown deep spiritual interest, but is fearfully holding back and counting the cost of following Christ. On the other hand, one girl has completed eight courses, but seems not to have grasped the spiritual implications for herself. In situations like this we are reminded that, however many courses a person may take, conviction of sin and a sense of spiritual need can only come from the Holy Spirit. We are also woefully reminded of our lack of personnel. If only we could spare the time to visit these girls more frequently!

In one town, we visited a girl whose father was very reluctant to ask us in. It appeared that he and the girl had been questioned by the police because of the Bible Courses. He had been threatened, and warned that she must stop doing them. On our next visit to the town I felt constrained to try to give the girl a New Testament. We did not know what kind of reception we would get, or who would answer the door, but as we walked up the garden path, I had a New Testament handy. In response to our knock the girl herself came to the door with the question: "Have you any books for me?" and I was thrilled to be able to give her God's Word.

In Constantine it has been easier, generally, to make contacts but there have been difficulties as in the case of Nadia, a young school-teacher. She was never in when I called. One day, an invitation to a girls' club had to be left with a younger sister. I came away with the prayer: "It has been impossible to see this girl. Now I'm leaving it to You, Lord, to bring us into touch." There had been only three girls at the first club that year, and this was to be our second. Only one girl turned up (I had almost forgotten my prayer, but God had not); It was Nadia! We were able to have a good Bible study together and discovered how well she understood the Gospel, though she is not a Christian yet.

The next club was held on the day that Farida, a high-school girl, was baptised. Only the normal club invitations had been sent out, yet that afternoon the girls kept coming in, and 43 signed the visitors' book. Surely God had rolled back all the clouds of Islam to give a day of light and joy and victory because of Farida's baptism. How important it was, too, that the large number present should hear the testimonies of Algerian Christians, for they make a tremendous impression.

A most important part of the work is that of following up the believers and leading them on in the Christian life. Among other

things, we have been concerned for them to have fellowship with others. With this in view, we prayed that three Christians from Constantine would be able to participate in the Easter camp. There were several obstacles to be prayed down. Farida's family had no money to spare for her to go, but two days before camp a gift was received for her from Christians in Algiers. Amar, in high school, needed money and his father's permission, but seemed afraid to ask his father. He finally turned up on the Sunday afternoon (Camp was to begin on the Monday) with permission to go, most of the money, and a beaming face! Kamel is a cripple, and it is difficult for him to find work. How was he to get the money for camp? One missionary thought of a way, and suggested that Kamel, who is artistic, paint country scenes on tiles which could then be sold. The idea caught on with Kamel, and so he too, was "in".

"And what", you may be wondering, "about the church in Algeria?" After many years of missionary endeavour, today we can praise God that the church in Algeria is beginning to emerge. In Algiers, Oran, Constantine, and in other places, there are small groups of worshipping believers, and these groups are growing. Not spectacularly, but surely, God is adding to His church those who are being saved, doing "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ."

Secretary - Scottish Council.

From the beginning of January 1969. Mr. D. R. Harris is undertaking the work as Secretary of the Scottish Council in the office in Glasgow.

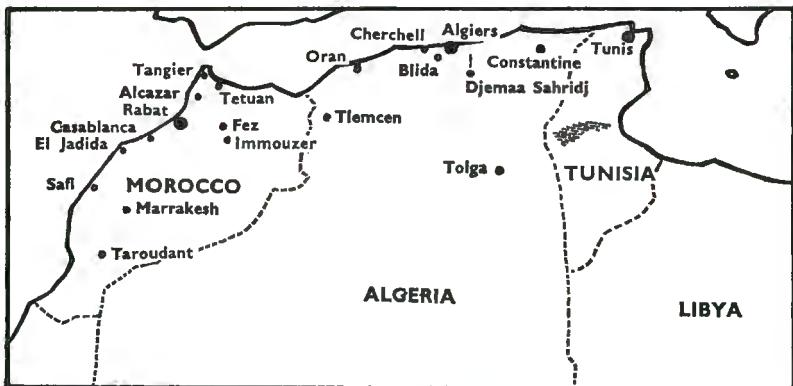
Mr. & Mrs. Harris are sorry not to be returning to the work in which they have been engaged in Marseilles, but circumstances occasioned by the health and education of their youngest daughter have introduced insuperable difficulties which have led them to decide reluctantly that they must stay in this country, at least for some years.

Looking to the Lord for guidance regarding the appointment of a permanent secretary to succeed Mr. T. Shaw, the Scottish Council feel that the availability of Mr. Harris has been His answer, and they are glad to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Harris to this

work. They, therefore, ask that prayer be made for them, that God's rich blessing may be upon them as they take up the work at the home end.

Mr. Harris will be undertaking deputation work, besides attending to the routine work of the office, and it is hoped that much interest will be aroused as a result. He has been 15 years with the Mission and has seen service in several spheres in Morocco as well as his recent years in Marseilles connected with the Radio School of the Bible. He is, therefore, well qualified to present the needs of those on the Field.

The Council acknowledges their indebtedness to Mr. Struthers for so ably carrying on as interim Secretary for the past nine months, and would thank him sincerely.



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