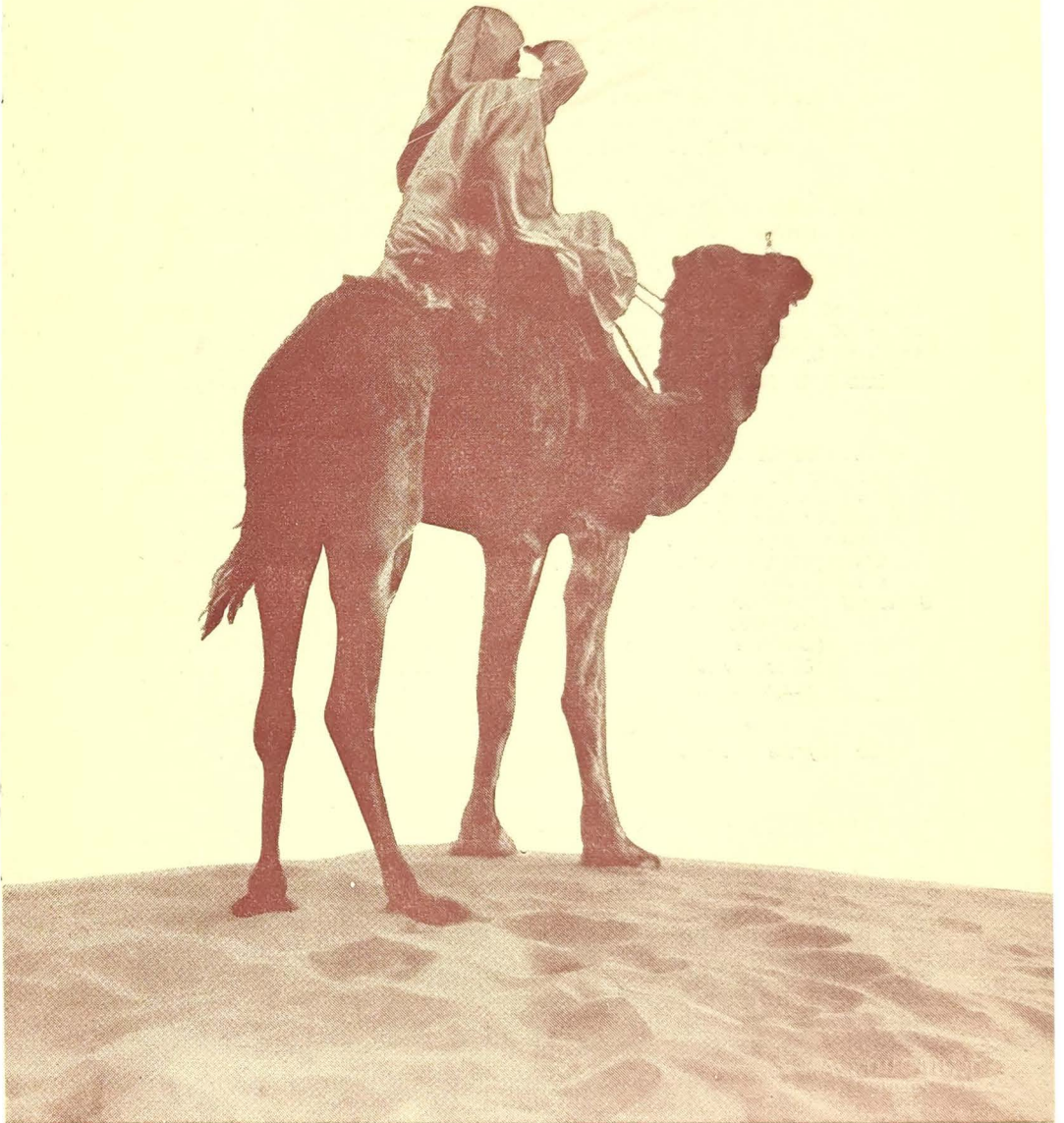


# *A Thirsty Land*



*Algiers Mission Band*

No. 145.

SEPTEMBER, 1963.

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*Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter*

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# A THIRSTY LAND

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Algiers Mission Band

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## *Editorial Notes*

### **Anonymous Donations:**

From time to time, gifts for the work of the Society are sent in anonymously. We gratefully acknowledge these with sincere thanks for the prayerful interest and support.

\* \* \*

Many of our Readers will have had their annual holiday, but there are those whose holidays are still to come and we wish them all happiness and refreshment, *and* good weather!

\* \* \*

Due to a misunderstanding, an erroneous statement was made on page 6 of "A Thirsty Land" No. 144 (June 1963).

It was not true that Miss Wood had to leave suddenly from her post in South Tunisia before oncoming armies. Miss Wood left that area in the early summer of 1939 for Algiers, from where she sailed to England for furlough. At the outbreak of the war she was in Denmark — and only returned to the Field some time later; she did not go back to Tunisia but spent the rest of her missionary ser-

vice in other stations of the A.M.B. in Algeria.

.....  
*Peter G. Longley*

### **NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

**Algiers**

**(1st September, 1963)**

We have to announce three retirements from active missionary service in Algeria. Miss Grautoff left the Field for England on 13th August, after 56 years of service with the A.M.B. For nearly all of that time she had been in charge of the Mission Station at Miliana.

During this month, Miss Clark and Miss Powell will be also leaving the Field to settle in England. For 12 years they have worked together at Relizane.

Further news of these three persons will be given in the next issue of "A Thirsty Land." Meanwhile, we wish them a happy time of retirement in England.

At present, no missionaries are available to occupy the Mission houses at Miliana and Relizane. These towns will be reached, therefore, only by occasional visits of

missionaries from other places. Please pray that the Lord will guide and direct the future of the work there, and in the whole of Algeria.

*P. M. Russell and J. Guibé*

## BLIDA

(April - June, 1963)

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### NEWS IN BRIEF FROM ALGIERS and the STATIONS

*P. G. and E. E. Longley*

#### ALGIERS. (EL - BIAR)

(April - June, 1963)

An encouraging Daily Vacation Bible School was held at Dar Naama from 8th to 13th April. An average of 15 boys was present each morning and 45 girls each afternoon.

Following the D.V.B.S. regular weekly classes for both boys and girls took place, until the end of June, with similar attendances.

Both the D.V.B.S. and the classes were made possible by the help given by two missionaries of the North Africa Mission—Miss Stewart and Mrs. Hoffman. The assistance given to the Mennonite Mission for their children's classes was also continued until the end of June, when classes closed for the Summer.

A limited number of homes were visited; the opportunity of entering two or three for the first time was welcomed.

On 2nd and 3rd June, the annual inter-mission Whitsun Conferences for Algerian Christians and enquirers was held at the El-Biar Methodist Church. Attendance was good, including an encouraging number of North Africans. There was a sense of unity among those present, and several acknowledged help received through the Bible Studies (taken from the Sermon on the Mount) and in the open meetings.

Our work took on a new lease of life in May. This was surely resulting from believing prayer, on the Field and at Home. On May 10, we returned encouraged, after spending a day in prayer with our friends of the North Africa Mission. Then, there was a fresh volume of prayer supporting us after our Annual Meeting in London and the Fellowship of Faith Conference at Herne Bay.

A new set of girls began to attend the classes. They were sisters and cousins of the boys who were coming regularly. Numbers grew until thirty were coming in the morning. Even the schoolgirls, who had stayed away for two months, reached a total of fourteen, on one occasion. They asked us to help them with their Arabic, so after the weekly Bible lesson, we kept them for another half hour of blackboard dictation, from any page of their school book which they decided upon. Incidentally, there was always an Arabic text of Scripture or the verse of a hymn to be deciphered before the revision began. This intense desire to read Arabic on the part of literate school-girls thrills us and is fraught with possibilities.

The boys continued with us in ever growing numbers, until we were obliged to use the big classroom. Sensing that our time was short, we took the subject of the New Birth...

On the following Sunday, thirty-five boys turned up and we noticed, to our secret alarm, that while twenty small boys were listening quietly, the bigger lads were going

out of their way to defy us. Then and there we decided to grade them in future. They invited on alternate Sundays, beginning with the little ones. Numbers dropped considerably and the seniors resented the arrangement, at first. The original troublemakers have stayed away ever since.

In spite of the great heat, Miss Grautoff kindly came to speak to both girls and boys at their final treats.

The women in their homes have shewn great friendliness and generosity, but not a single one has paid us a return visit on Friday, our "At Home" day. Though this is a disappointment, Mademoiselle Guibé has had so much business in connection with the various Mission properties, we think this may be the Lord's way of giving her extra time to cope with it.

Three Moroccan sisters (former classgirls) and a Kabyle Christian accompanied us to the Whitsun Conference in El Biar. One of the sisters is now a nurse at the local hospital. Her life is certainly one of temptation, but also of opportunity.

One after another our European friends are leaving the country for good, but we stay our hearts and minds upon the promises contained in Isaiah 42. 16:—

"... I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them and not forsake them."

*E. Clark and A. E. Powell*

## RELIZANE (April - June, 1963)

Our session began with the first combined A.M.B. — N.A.M. day of prayer for the Oran district which was held at Relizane on April 3. It was a profitable and blessed time.

During the past months we have been able to continue more or less with the visiting and have been well received. One house was visited again after a lapse of eighteen months and we had a great welcome from the members of the family.

We have continued the women's meeting each Friday but the attendance has been poor, the largest number being three women and eight children. The women have not yet got into the way of coming again regularly to the mission house. The past few months have been marked by quite a large number of visitors, colleagues and others, to the house. One visitor in particular was an English nurse, a keen Christian. She had come to Algeria under the International Voluntary Service and had been helping in hospitals in various places. She had heard of a Baby Clinic which had recently been started by one of the doctors' wives at Relizane, so she came along to help and find out for herself how the Clinic was organised. We had a very happy and interesting time together.

A short time ago two of our fellow missionaries (N.A.M.) of Oran came to take part in a Rally which had been arranged for those who had continued with the Bible Correspondence Courses. At the time the Rally should have commenced, a violent thunderstorm occurred, continuing far into the night. Needless to say no

one came to the Rally, so we spent the time in prayer. Our missionary friends stayed the weekend and were able to visit the surrounding villages, distributing and selling literature.

Recently we met a woman who had come to the mission house in the time of Miss Freeman. She was in great sorrow over the death of her son and as we expressed sympathy she said: "All are leaving me but the Lord Jesus remains."

We also met a man who had been one of Miss Freeman's boys and who, until a short time ago, had been in the Navy. He was very pleased to make our acquaintance and had much to tell us of what took place at the mission house all those years ago.

Many and varied have been the opportunities for witnessing while helping the young lady from the Society for the Protection of Animals. One day while visiting with her at a farm in one of the villages, opportunity was given for a talk with five men and two lads.

In a letter received from our R.C. convert who is now happily settled in France, she writes with gratitude of how the Lord has been undertaking for her and her family. She has been tempted many times and has yielded to the temptation, but the Lord has brought her through.

Surely, as we too look back on the past years, with their difficulties and disappointments mingled with a peace and joy in the knowledge of being in the place of God's will for us, we can take fresh courage assured that "God's word shall not return unto Him void but shall accomplish that for which it was sent."

*M. Lull*

TOLGA

(January - June, 1963)

On looking back over the past year's work, I cannot fail to bless the Lord for all His mercies. I thank Him first of all for allowing us to re-open the work in October, and to keep on without any interruption until June. He has been present with us all the time, coming to our aid in the difficult moments which have certainly not been few.

Stubborn opposition was shown during the Fast month. Then the class of old girls was diminished by the marriage of two of the girls, and the removal of another to Algiers. Illness, also, made its presence felt, and we were reduced to three or four. But we persevered, and fresh girls brought by their mothers, were added to the class. For the last three months we have had ten older girls.

The studies on true fasting and prayer according to the Bible interested them, but the studies on the life of the Apostle Paul seemed to leave them indifferent.

The younger girls have been much more few in numbers than during the period preceding Christmas, but we have been able to continue the Thursday class and Sunday schools right up to the end.

Several boys have come to ask for booklets which I lent them and which they returned. This prevents their tearing them up. One Sunday I was able to have a little meeting with them.

At the Sunday School for Europeans, the three Martin children came regularly and made good progress. Two of their small friends, whose

parents are practising Roman Catholics, also came in May. The elder boy wanted very much to go with his friends, and so the parents decided that, since there was no R.C. Catechism in Tolga, they could attend the Protestant Sunday School. We hope that this good relationship will continue when we re-open in October.

I thank the Lord, too, for the contacts with the village people. It seems that the storm has passed and that friendliness and confidence have returned.

I have agreed to give two mornings a week to the "glass of milk" campaign, but I have not yet been able to find a woman prepared to give voluntary help to this work. However, three of my pupils have come very regularly, and this has developed in them the desire to be useful and to help their neighbours. If only you had been able to see the joy of the boys and girls when we arrived at the distribution centre. Four hundred children have a glass of milk and a chunk of bread on each occasion. There is a lot of poverty here and the children are hungry. I have also been able to distribute milk to those in need. The authorities have been very grateful for the help given by our team and by the "Christian Committee for Service in Algeria."

We must keep up our contacts and not neglect the open doors, as they will give us opportunities to witness. With perseverance in the Lord and confident prayer we wait for our Father to cause the seed to germinate and the fruit to ripen for His glory.

D. B. Edge

## A TE DEUM TAPESTRY

Autumn again. —

"Season of mists and mellow  
fruitfulness!  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing  
sun,"

as John Keats described it in his Ode To Autumn. But, there is, alas, the gradual baring of beautiful trees with the falling to the ground of their russet leaves. This calls to mind an incident of a small child who, glancing up into the troubled face of her mother while she mused and sadly commented upon the ruthless ravages of the season, exclaimed joyfully "But, Mummy, just think how much more *room* we shall now have to see the blue, blue sky beyond!"

It may be that the past year has brought its frustrations, vexations, disappointments, and even sickness and sorrow resulting in the loss of a dear one, with a certain sense of desolation; a shattering of the plans upon which so much hope had been built, so much time and thought spent, leaving in their wake a kind of bewilderment and discouragement, sadness.

Looking at the fallen leaves and the stripped branches, one may be tempted to feel as did the despondent mother of our little tale, and to say "oh, the ruthlessness, the waste of it all!"

Yet, behind and beyond such experiences is the One Who sees fit in compassionate love to permit the chastening. We are reminded that the Lord *loveth* whom He chasteneth, sometimes in order perhaps to clear

the way that we might come nearer to Him, to take a closer look up into the face of the Eternal; to grasp afresh in so doing, something more of His tender love and of His sufferings for mankind; to experience as never before, something of what it must mean to have fellowship with Him in His sufferings. Surely, this brings advancement in spiritual stature, with a tempering of the trouble, and comfort in the loss. Whereto the waste?

What a wealth of blessing may be missed if the soul fails to look beyond the fallen leaves!

"When Thou saidst Seek ye my face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek . . . O God of my salvation."

*Psalm 27: 8, 9.*

"To give unto them . . . the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

*Isaiah 61: 3.*

*The following verses are published by kind permission of the Editor of  
The London City Mission Magazine.*

## THE SOUL'S CRY

By F. H. WRINTMORE

Give me faith, when sorrow darkens  
All the morning of my day;  
Give me strength when storms are  
breaking —  
Hope beyond man's fading way.

Give me peace, while worlds are  
falling,  
Strong assurance in my pain:  
Confidence — beyond all shaking —  
That my faith is not in vain.

Give me vision of Thy goodness,  
Sight of greatness undisturbed:  
Entrance into life abundant,  
Where Thy soothing voice is heard.

Give me comfort, for my sorrow:  
Give me comfort for my soul:  
Lead me, Saviour, through the  
conflict,  
Keep me in Thine Own control.

Oh, my Saviour, give me gladness:  
Lift my burden: soothe my mind:  
Let the ointment of Thy healing  
Shape me, as Thy love designed.

Give me solace in the morning,  
Give me guidance through the  
night:  
Peace beyond the world's depression,  
Constant, everlasting light.



## PRAYER CYCLE

*“ They that trust in the Lord are as mount Zion, which cannot be moved,  
but abideth forever.” Ps: 125: 1.*

<b>Monday:</b>	Algiers	Mr. & Mrs. P. G. Longley.
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Blida	Miss P. M. Russell & Mlle. J. Guibé
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Miliana & Relizane	Temporarily closed.
<b>Thursday:</b>	Tlemcen	Mr. & Mrs. F. Ewing (North Africa Mission)
<b>Friday:</b>	Tolga	Madame Lull
	Sétif & Touggourt	Temporarily Closed
<b>Saturday:</b>		Missionaries on leave of absence in England: Rev. & Mrs. R. J. Waine Retired Missionaries in England: Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Buckenham, Miss. E. Clark, Miss A. M. Farmer, Miss M. D. Grautoff Miss A. E. Powell, Miss M. H. Roche and Miss V. A. C. Wood.
<b>Sunday:</b>	London Centre	Miss D. B. Edge Members of Executive Committee & Home Council.