

NEGLECTED ARABIA

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A TYPICAL ARABIAN SCENE—*from original sketch by Miss Dalenberg*

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The Arabian Mission

OF THE

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The Arabian Mission, which was organized in 1889 as a separate mission was amalgamated with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America in 1925. The change did not affect the work in Arabia or the organization in the field, but concerned only office administration and legal status. All former contributions should be continued and sent to the Board of Foreign Missions. They may be specially designated "For Work in Arabia" if desired.

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NEGLECTED ARABIA

Missionary News and Letters
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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONG THE FRIENDS OF
THE ARABIAN MISSION

Annual Report of the Arabian Mission 1926

“There’s a land long since neglected
There’s a people still rejected
But of truth and grace elected
In His love for them.”

SINCE these words were first sung in that upper room of the old Cantine homestead at Stone Ridge and those first brave hearts went out to carry this message of love, many a tale has come to you of this long neglected land, the Cradle of Islam. You have come to know its people, their religion, their customs, and their needs. From the reports and letters that have come from the missionaries from time to time you have also been given an insight into the work of His Kingdom there, of the dangers faced, the obstacles overcome and the difficulties still to be met; of the blessings and fulfilment of promises experienced. This is the story of the work of the past year, of the ways in which His messengers, in old paths and new, have sought to make known the Gospel of love and salvation.

Preaching and Teaching in Muscat

The regular work as carried on in Muscat Station consists of church services on Sunday, daily morning prayers for the station, with Arabs often dropping in and school boys joining in the hymn-singing, classes for boys on week days and a Sunday school class for children. The Bible shop serves a useful purpose in bringing the missionary and the people together, not only the people of Muscat, but from all parts of the Arabic-speaking world. The women are reached in their homes and there are those that come out to services also. “One cannot help but rejoice that one has liberty to give the Gospel message every Sunday to the women who gather. One can sow the seed but cannot know which may prosper. We pray that we may not dig up in unbelief what we sow in faith! There are no closed doors as far as visiting houses is concerned, but one has to mourn over hearts that are closed to the Gospel.” The Sunday school class continues, with varied attendance. Regular pupils at present are some from two Moslem schools whom the teachers give leave to attend every Sunday morning, but “who also fortify the children with much repetition of the Koran just before dismissing them for Sunday school.”

How the Message Is Accepted In Bahrain

Bahrain, with its growing population and material advances such as motor cars, good roads, a great sea wall and artesian wells, has undergone great changes. And with this influx of things modern there is also an undercurrent of change in thought, among the young men especially, some of whom have thrown over their old conception of religion. Moharreq boasts of a Literary Club—with liberal and infidel tendencies! So spoke one youth who left the club for that reason. The merchants of Bahrain have increasing contact with the outer world. Newspapers and periodicals bring in reports of progress of liberal thought in Turkey, Syria and Egypt. "One feels that with the changing attitude there ought to be some point of approach for the entrance of the Gospel. May the Lord open our eyes to these opportunities." Sunday morning and evening services are fairly well attended. Hospital patients and their friends make up a large part of the morning audience. Two young men have expressed their belief in the teachings of Christ. Among the women,



A STREET IN BAHRAIN

Mrs. Pennings, the Bible woman and the other lady missionaries find that there are ready listeners. "In almost any roomful of superficial listeners, there are a few who seem really interested and want more detailed explanation and discussion." Through the year "Gospel Meetings" were held, some in the chapel, others in different parts of Menameh, the outlying districts and seashore resorts, where during the diving season the divers' wives and children come and live for the summer. The Mission Ford car was very useful in this work.

Seed Sowing In Kuwait

In Kuwait the greatest missionary influence is the Sunday afternoon service for men and women, called by all of us, the "Beit er Raban" service, after the house used for the purpose. Dr. Calverley writes: "Our special service for Moslems at the school fluctuates in attendance but it always demands one's very best efforts. One Sunday morning during the summer over fifty women were counted. Both the colporteur and the

school teacher have shared these preaching services with me." The Bible shop was kept open throughout the year by the missionary and teacher in the absence of the colporteur. Scripture sales amounted to 210.

In Kuwait, as in Bahrain, the Gospel is well received in the homes, but underneath all the friendliness there is opposition. "In the Friday sermons in the mosques the missionaries are referred to and the people are warned against coming to us. One young woman who underwent a serious operation and whose life hung by a thread for a while afterwards, learned to love the doctor and the others who ministered to her and was most grateful when she recovered. She can read and enjoys the portions of scripture which have been given to her. But one day her brother came home from the mosque and said the mullah had said that all the people who had anything to do with Christians would have to rise with them on the last day. The woman was distressed, but needless to say she was assured that she would be quite safe if she were in the company of Christians on the Day of Resurrection."

Opportunities In Basrah

In Iraq there is much more poverty than one sees down in the gulf stations, though there too the situation is serious. What the missionary can do to relieve this poverty is only a drop in the bucket. But Christ's "Inasmuch" has been heeded as far as possible. "With the aid of friends at home we have sought to serve Him by ministering unto them, giving food to little orphans and the sick, quinine for the fever-racked bodies, drops in sore eyes, and warm garments to the shivering. At Christmas time we went out "into the streets and lanes of the city" and brought in the poor, and the maimed, halt and blind to Zahara's compound, where 125 or more gathered around the first good meal they had had for months. To all the needy the Bread of Life has also been given, though ignorance and suffering do not produce active minds." In the weekly prayer-meetings where the poor are not the only ones who attend, the women show an eagerness to hear. In the houses of the more prosperous the welcome given to the Book is sometimes indifferent, though their need is as great, for the women of the rich suffer even more than the poor from the unjust power of their men and the teachings of Christ cannot but strike a chord in their hearts. Through the Sunday school class for children a group of people is reached that the Mission has not been in direct touch with before. The class is large; the small boys and girls are responsive and through them their homes are reached.

The native Protestant congregation, now an independent organization, meets on Sunday mornings and a separate preaching service purely for Moslems has been built up. At the beginning the audience was made up very largely of refugee Arabs from up country, which probably kept better class Arabs away. Attendance reached as high as 31. Since the opening of the work this fall we have tried the experiment of meeting in the school building instead of the chapel. "The venture is still in too early a stage," writes Mr. Bilkert, "to predict how it will develop." Since he wrote his report, however, several Sundays have passed and a very interesting and hopeful development has been the attendance of Mission School boys, who never came to the service when it was held in the chapel.

The Ashar and Basrah bazaars form such a large field of work that it is impossible for one man to cover it all. The Ashar bazaar was divided into districts and each section visited every week. The colporteur in charge of the Bible shop in Basrah city rendered faithful service there. With regard to personal work, Mr. Bilkert reports: "It has been interesting to see the response of the people to friendly advances. Some of the people who prompted the remarks in last year's report on the underlying bitterness of Islam towards us and our message have melted into warm friends during the course of the year. . . . So far the men have been reluctant to come to the house where we might come to closer grips with them on spiritual themes." These and other situations "point to the imperative need of some sort of building in which to center our evangelistic activities, an assembly room for our services, some sort of reading room and an office or 'mejlis' where the missionary can meet callers in surroundings that approximate those to which they are accustomed."

First Fruits In Amarah

"Soon after our return from the last annual meeting one of our inquirers made a voluntary public confession of his faith in Christ. It was at a Sunday afternoon prayer-meeting, where he arose and said simply, "I would like to pray." He had previously prayed with us in private, but this was his first prayer in public. We are sad to say that it was also his last, for during that week he was laid low with the disease that brought him to his grave. Naeema's death brought to life the faith of two others as they began to confess more openly and lost no opportunity to take part in our services of prayer. It was a great joy to see these two baptized on a Sunday in April and to know that they were added to the fold of the great and good Shepherd who has said that none shall pluck them out of his hand." One of the converts is a carpenter and was a great help in the building of the Bahrain hospital. When he left, the Moslem mason said, "Here is a man without guile."

A Sunday In Amarah

The morning service is what the Arabs would call a "reading." Hymns, the Ten Commandments, Psalms and a New Testament lesson are read with about half the audience participating, followed by a brief explanation of the lesson. After this service the first Sunday school class meets. It is a gathering of children and adults, all much alike in their need and understanding. The highest attendance in this class was 32. The second class meets in the afternoon; regular attendants are Mission servants and one or two outsiders. Following this class is the afternoon service, a combination Sunday school and prayer meeting, when opportunity is given for any who wish to take part. It was at one of these first meetings that Naeema offered his first prayer. Others followed in time and a few Sundays ago five men who had once been Moslems stood up in succession and prayed in the name of Jesus. After this meeting there is a class for small boys. The roll shows 57 names. "Most of the boys are wild, untrained and undisciplined; they are the children we meet every day in town and the outlying districts. These children and the problem of how to get at them have been on my mind a great deal, and

I feel," writes Mrs. Dykstra, "that the Lord is sending them to us in answer to our prayers." The day ends with an evening mejlis for religious discussion. This gathering attracts some who dare not appear during the day. All these meetings and classes are held in the small courtyard of the native house occupied by the missionaries. The women meet weekly for prayer-meeting but the Sunday services are not advertised widely among the women because there is no room for them. The men are coming out so well that all available space is being reserved for them. Does this not speak loudly for the need of a chapel in Amarah?

Evangelism In the Hospitals

"And He received them, and spake unto them of the Kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing."

And so they are received in the hospitals, to be healed by the touch of Christ and to hear there the message of the Kingdom. They come long distances from far-away lands where there never has been a doctor, spend days on sailboats or cargo ships, or travel many weary miles by camel caravan across the burning hot desert. Whole families come together, bringing one who has been ill for years perhaps, and they stake all they have on the hope of healing or relief from suffering. Their stay in the hospital may last a month or more and though we know they have not come long distances to hear the Word of God, they do hear it daily and often take back with them more than they realize. From the five hospitals come these reports:

"We find the hours spent among the dispensary and in-patients most satisfactory. We believe there are some among them who are taking new light with them to the various towns and districts along the coast and inland."—Bahrain.

"We all have a share in dispensary prayers. The people listen attentively and often the words spoken seem to bring comfort and joy to the hearers."—Kuwait.

"Work with the women in the clinics has been well worth while. The women generally listened well in spite of crowded quarters. Several times some expressed genuine regret that they had missed the morning prayer by coming late; others speak to members of their families or friends concerning the message they have heard."—Amarah.

"One mullah, in preaching against our work, is reported to have said, 'When you call the doctor to your house, do not think that they have come for the sake of treating you; they come to teach you their religion.' It was not long after this warning, however, that in two houses we were unexpectedly requested to read the Bible to patients during out-calls."—Kuwait.

"We are planning to introduce the element of repetition into the next year's evangelistic program of the hospitals. The plan is to hang up a wall text, for a week basing all talks upon that text. The hope is that repetition may result in a deeper impression and that the wall text may furnish a topic of conversation after the address is finished. Personal work with the in-patients has been the most important task. The evangelist combined with this the task of investigating cases of financial distress and giving necessary relief."—Bahrain.

"We feel that the deity of Christ is the heart of our message, and whatever the particular form of the message, we always try to work in the point that Christ was God, for this, after all, is the main issue between us and Islam."—Kuwait.

The Bible In the Schools

"We are content to teach A, B, C, geography, and grammar for three hours in order to have twenty minutes with the boys for reading and study of the Gospel."—Muscat.

"Two courses in Bible study were given; the first a selection of Bible passages, the second on the miracles of Christ. The boys showed real interest, at times even asking about the day's lesson at recess or after school hours. At other times there were open sneers. As long as one does not talk about the redemptive work of Christ they seem to be willing to listen, but when that subject is opened opposition is immediately aroused."—Bahrain.

"The Bible as a text book has received first place on the program. There have of course been exceptions but on the whole it was encouraging to see what interest the boys took in these lessons. The teacher of the Elementary Department had a Sunday afternoon class in Bible stories where attendance was voluntary. It was encouraging to see the goodly number of Moslem boys who attended this class."—Basrah.

"Koran teachers try to win our girls away from us, but we are hoping that with enlightening civilization around about us the parents may see the benefits of education and the light and knowledge that come into the life that accepts Christ."—Bahrain.

"Through the daily Bible teaching, the girls are learning to consider lying and cheating dishonorable, to value character for its own sake, and to rebel against Islam's decree that man is absolute master and woman the slave. . . . Pray for them that they may crave the liberty that shall make them free indeed."—Basrah.

Missions to Moslems older than the Arabian Missions have found the schools to be one of the greatest agencies in winning young people for Christ. Pray for our schools; pray for conversions among the boys and girls, that their young lives may be given in service to Christ.

MEDICAL WORK

The small hospital in Muscat was taxed to its full capacity last winter when Dr. Dame stopped over on his way into Oman. It was a wonderful opportunity for many to receive surgical treatment and to us it showed that a doctor would find plenty of work in that vicinity. Mr. Van Peurseem, who accompanied Dr. Dame on this tour, writes: "Our work in Oman will be greatly supplemented and aided when once we have a doctor in Matrah. While the preacher is tolerated in the Battina, but cannot go inland without a doctor, a doctor is wanted everywhere. We have definitely seen demonstrated last year the benefit of the doctor and the evangelist touring together. For that reason we reiterate our call for a doctor for Oman. The church has perhaps been awakened somewhat last year in regard to the needs of Oman. We hope and pray that this awakening has not been in vain, but that a new beginning has



THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN BAHRAIN

been made towards establishing the Kingdom of God in the province of Oman." The women's medical work was carried on by Mrs. Van Peurseem during the absence of Dr. Hosmon on furlough.

From Bahrain, Dr. Harrison reports two bad pearling seasons with the result of bitter and increasing poverty. "Numbers have been turned away from the hospital, not because they were unable to pay a fee, but because they would have nothing to eat during their proposed stay of perhaps two weeks. Due to this extreme poverty affecting all classes except the very rich, the work of the year has been very light. The outstanding event of the year was the completion of the new hospital for women and children."

What this splendid building means to the women has been shown by them in the increased numbers at the clinics and by the genuine joy they showed and response they made on the opening day. They have at last a place of privacy, where they need not draw their veils closely every time they hear a step or turn a corner, as they did when the women's quarters were in the men's hospital. They have now a cleaner, brighter, more comfortably cool and spacious place than they have ever had in their own homes, and yet withal a place where they can and do feel at home. Here Christ calls to them, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We are eagerly awaiting the new equipment from America and looking forward to the coming of Dr. Margaret Rottschaefer who has been loaned by the Arcot Mission. The building of the new hospital has meant no small increase also in the facilities for the men. For the first time in the hospital's history, there is a room to spare which can be used as a hospital laboratory.

Kuwait hospital reports that the opposition referred to in last year's report was very active during the first half of this year. "At times it seemed as though a regular boycott had been instituted. Receipts were far below normal and debt stared us in the face. . . . The movement is not new; the fires of opposition have been burning, now fiercely, now

merely smouldering, ever since we held our first dispensary here in 1911. Work picked up during the latter half of the year and the general figures were normal. Out-patient work, which in former years has done so well but last year fell behind, increased, and the threatening debt turned into a satisfactory solvency."

There is growing confidence among the women of Kuwait. Statistics have never been so encouraging as this year. "People are learning to turn to us when they are in trouble. There are those who were blind and have had their sight restored; those who came to us in agony or despair and by God's blessing have found relief and health. Mothers in increasing proportion ask us to help them save their babies, in this place where the death rate among infants is so appalling. Through just such help as this, there are those who have been won from hatred and fear to gratitude and friendship."

In the hospital, the helpers are under constant supervision and instruction, in an endeavor to raise their technique, ability and sense of responsibility. One of the problems on which Kuwait as well as other stations has been working with varied success, is that of educating the women that come to the morning dispensary to wait quietly in turn. In these last few years when 120 to 140 women and children ask for attention in a morning, this problem has been a great burden.



THE CHILDREN'S WARD, THE FIRST IN ARABIA
IN THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, BAHRAIN

The Lansing Memorial Hospital at Work In a New Field

“Looking back over the first year of work in Amarah, we can truly say that the Lord hath blessed us. Counting the large number of friends that the medical work has made, considering the work done in the typhoid epidemic last spring, calculating the number of persons who have been drawn into our services through the medical work, and watching with interest the attitude of the patients who come to dispensary prayers, I think we can truthfully say that Amarah has shown the effects of our first year of medical work and realizes that we are trying to do more than treat their bodies and cure their illnesses.” The work has been growing steadily in spite of small quarters in a native house. During the last three months the number of old cases cared for far exceeded the number of new treatments, an indication of growing confidence. Also, larger numbers of patients are reporting from outlying districts. A healthy sign! Amarah is looking forward to the completion of the new hospital building now in process of construction. The prayer is that the new contact made through medical work may prove an open door through which the love of Jesus Christ may enter more hearts than ever before.

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Six Hospitals

- Muscat, Women’s Hospital.
- Bahrain, Men’s and Women’s Hospitals.
- Kuwait, Men’s and Women’s Hospitals.
- Amarah, Men’s and Women’s Hospital.

Total Treatments in Hospitals and Tours.....	76,262
New Cases in Dispensaries	28,678
Medical Calls	2,507
In-patients	489
Operations	1,933



OUR SCHOOLS

Basrah Boys' School, the largest school in the Mission, reports a higher enrollment than ever. In January it mounted up to 242; average during the year 215. Attendance kept up well until an epidemic of malaria swept over the country, when many of the boys succumbed. It is interesting to know what happens to the boys when they leave school. Five of the highest class who left last year have secured promising positions and one has gone to continue his studies in the University of Beirut. "Wherever the boys are employed, favorable comments are heard upon their efficiency and good conduct." The school has a Literary Society of the High and Middle sections, under the direction of the boys themselves, with one of their Arabic teachers as helper and adviser. The boarding department had from 16 to 30 boys throughout the year. "The school has a place in the minds and affections of a large number of boys and their parents in Basrah and vicinity. . . . I hope the Mission and its friends at home will cherish the Basrah Boys' School. Aside from any mention of the secular branches taught, it has its distinct place as a missionary influence and as a means for bringing the Christian message to the individuals and homes of the vicinity."

Basrah schools face the problem of government competition, a development of recent years and one not peculiar to this Mission. In former days, when Moslem girls were sent to our schools, the Bible lessons were accepted as a necessary part of the price to be paid. But with the opening of government schools the day for that necessity passed and the girls are now sent to schools that teach their own religion. One way of meeting the problem, a way that has proved successful in other missions among Moslems, is to raise the standard of the schools in equipment and teaching staff, which means, needless to say, increased expenditure. This in our case is impossible under the existing financial conditions. An alternative solution is suggested, that of closing one of the two girls' schools and making the remaining one stronger in teaching staff and efficiency.

Bahrain Schools

The Girls' School in Bahrain opened last fall with an enrollment of 15 pupils, only four of whom were Moslems. The number however increased to 14 Moslems. The opening of the school this fall was encouraging after the first few days. The number of Moslem girls enrolled rose to 28 and just before Annual Meeting to 35. This may be due in part to the change of location. The former building, a dwelling house, was undesirable in many ways and the rent was high. A more suitable place was found, to which Mr. Hakken moved the Boys' School and the Girls' School was transferred to the chapel school room. The proximity of their present quarters to the new hospital seems to be an advantage.

The Boys' School has been given the trial of a missionary's full time although Mr. Hakken was not able to take up the work until the end of February on account of illness. Attendance this year was slightly better than last. The demand for education is growing and especially for English, but there are two fairly good Moslem schools in the town which draw most of the young Moslems. "The most enjoyable feature of the

year was summer school," writes Mr. Hakken. There were only two pupils enrolled but a splendid opportunity was given for personal work.

In Muscat, Kuwait and Amarah the educational work is limited to such time as can be given to it by missionaries who are in charge of other work. As one hears the reports from each of these stations, however, one realizes that it is no small part of the missionaries' task, for the opportunities are too good to let them slip by. In Muscat there are 14 boys who come regularly to school in the Van Peurseem house and this school is considered "the most efficient agency in men's evangelistic work in Muscat." In Kuwait there was a time when all the young men of the city seemed to be desirous of seeking an education and Moslem schools flourished. "At present," writes Dr. Calverley, "the educational situation is not as intense as formerly, but our school would undoubtedly be larger if the missionary could give his full time to it." The Mission school has an enrollment of 38 boys, with an average attendance of 18. In Amarah, lessons were given by Mrs. Dykstra to 30 different pupils during the year. The work was fitted in at odd moments between other tasks. Equal opportunities are there for the men's work. "Our converts have children whom they would gladly have us teach and train, but for the present they must send them to a Moslem school." A field white unto the harvest!

TOURING AND ITINERATING

The outstanding feature of the touring program this year was Dr. Dame's tour in Oman, a full report of which appeared in a previous number of "Neglected Arabia." It was found that in spite of the



A GROUP OF FRIENDLY OMANIS

numerous tours made there in the years gone by, Oman is not an open province, and the only means of entrance is through medical work. There is, however, an increasing friendliness on the part of the people and peaceful relations have been established between the inland sheikhs and the government of Muscat, so that the outlook for future tours is good, and we hope and pray for the establishment of permanent medical work.

Later in the year another tour was made by Dr. Harrison to the district around Debai. An invitation to stay in Debai had been received from the sheikh but it was countermanded upon the doctor's arrival because of local political tension. "We had to be satisfied with a stay in Ajman, a much smaller town perhaps twenty miles farther down the coast. The reception here was most cordial and the medical work heavy. This trip, as well as Dr. Dame's, showed the very great opportunities open to us on that coast. The most receptive Arabs of Arabia live there. In Ajman, Christian services on Sunday were asked for and well attended."

Inland Arabia

"The influence of the Mason Memorial Hospital extends far beyond the Bahrain islands. One of its major functions is to open inland Arabia for permanent occupation. No visit has been made to Bin Saoud's country for some time. He has been absent in the Hedjaz throughout the year, but writes most cordially that upon his return to the capital, Riyadh, he will send for us to come and make him another visit. The Sultan's partisans in Bahrain expect him to spend several months more in Mecca before he returns."

The River District In Mesopotamia

The third large field for touring is the region of the Tigris and Euphrates and their tributaries. Previous reports, and a small pamphlet entitled, "The Mission Launch," have told you of tours made in the past. This year, with Mr. Dykstra in Bahrain for the building of the new hospital, there was no time for major touring. Short trips were made in the Amarah district by the medical and evangelistic staff. The colporteur at Nasiriya toured the Euphrates down to Hamar lake and also made an extensive tour through Shattrah, along the Shat el Hai to Kut.

Itinerating and Village Work

Miss Jackson and a Bible woman spent a number of days in different villages along the river and one day at a date camp. They were urged to come more often. This work could easily be built up when money is available for it.

In Bahrain some effort has been made to cover more of the island. In addition to the regular work of the hospital, weekly clinics were opened in two of the outlying villages. Men and women were treated and Gospel talks were given to increasingly interested groups. At Rifa it was hoped that a weekly preaching service could be developed but that hope has not been realized as yet. We plan to make much use of illustrated talks in these places. Miss Dalenberg, accompanied by one of the Mission helpers, made a week's tour of the villages to the west of the island. This has been done before by sailboat but now that good roads have been made, a Ford can reach almost any place on the island.

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS

FOR TWO BELIEVERS who bear the brunt of hatred of Moslems around about them, especially in the summer when they are alone in the station.

FOR A YOUNG BEDOU who, though he has not made an open confession, is called by the Moslems "Servant of Christ." He goes about the bazaars selling tracts and Gospel portions.

FOR A YOUNG MAN, once a controversialist, very fanatical, who for some time has been troubled about his soul. He had come to the point where he believed practically nothing of what was being taught him in the Moslem School of Theology he was attending and then began reading the Gospel. Now he believes Christianity is true and Islam utterly false, but the bonds of the latter still hold him.

FOR THREE GIRLS, two of whom have expressed their desire to follow Christ. The third is much persecuted at home but her faith bears up under the test. She loves to sing hymns and gets much comfort out of them.

FOR TEN MEN who have expressed their faith in the truth of Christ's teachings, some of whom are studying by themselves the teachings of the Gospel, the others depending on the missionaries to help them to a better understanding of the Word of God.

For many more who hunger and thirst after righteousness, but who dare not come out openly to seek it.

FOR THE LITTLE BAND OF BELIEVERS in Amarah who meet every Saturday night for prayer and intercession. May the Lord richly bless them and unite them in the bonds of prayer and love, and strengthen their faith and belief in the promises of their newly-found Saviour.



PERSONALIA

Dr. and Mrs. James Cantine, at their own request, became emeritus missionaries of the Reformed Church from January 1, 1927. In view of their retirement from active service, the Board of Foreign Missions has arranged for a testimonial dinner to them in recognition of their long, faithful and fruitful service as active missionaries, having had so much to do with the founding both of the Arabian Mission and of the United Mission in Mesopotamia.

Dr. and Mrs. Cantine have been spending the winter in Stone Ridge and in Kingston, Mrs. Cantine having been under medical treatment in a hospital in Kingston for some time.

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Zwemer, following upon a very active visitation to the churches, both East and West, under the auspices of our own and the United Presbyterian Boards, are again turning their faces eastward. Dr. Zwemer will sail from New York March 26 to attend the Conferences of workers among Jews in Budapest and Warsaw in April, and the World Conference on Faith and Order in Lausanne in August. Mrs. Zwemer will join him in Cairo where they will spend a month or two in preparation for a second visit to India during the cold season, 1927-28.

The members of the Arabian Mission whose furloughs are due this year will soon be traveling homeward; the Misses Jackson and Miss Dalenberg by way of the desert to Beirut, thence homeward; Rev. and Mrs. D. Dykstra following a little later.
