Southern Morocco Mission

Founded 1888

A Review of the Work 1918
OFFICE-BEARERS.

Honorary President—JOHN ANDERSON.
Chairman of Council—R. W. RAPHAEL.

General Council.
Right Hon. Sir JOSEPH P. MACLAY, Bart., Glasgow.
D. J. FINDLAY, J.P., Glasgow.
D. J. KNOX, J.P., Glasgow.
DAVID KEITH-MURRAY, Crieff.
R. G. MUNSIE, Glasgow.

Superintendent in Morocco—CUTHBERT NAIRN.
Secretary—JOHN GEDDES, 200 Buchanan Street, Glasgow.
Hon. Treasurer—JAMES FULTON, 200 Buchanan St., Glasgow.

MISSIONARY STAFF, 1917.

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"Let the whole earth be filled with His Glory Amen and Amen"

Southern Morocco Mission.

We are thankful to be able to send to our home-helpers, at the close of another year, an encouraging Report of the work in Southern Morocco. In a recent letter our Superintendent sends us this cheering message: "I have never seen such true evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit as at the present time." Speaking generally, it may be said that on every hand the age-long barriers of Moslem exclusiveness and suspicion are breaking down, and everywhere a friendlier spirit is manifest among the people. The Missionaries are entering these open doors in so far as time and strength permit, and for these new and wider opportunities they are greatly thankful. The work may be briefly referred to as follows:

Preaching the Gospel.

To carry the Evangel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the people of Morocco is the supreme purpose and privilege of the Missionaries. The dispensaries, where daily there gather crowds of sufferers, provide great openings for effective Gospel testimony. The patients, many of whom are in the Mission House for the first time, eagerly watch the Missionaries as they render kindly service to the sick and suffering, and when "The Book" is opened and the Word preached
they are disposed to listen with sympathy and appreciation. It is a great joy to the workers to commend to them day by day, and many times a day, the Gospel of redeeming love. One said at the close of such an address: "We always knew that Christ was a prophet, but we never knew till you came that He is the Saviour of the world." In every place when fitting opportunity is found, Christ is lifted up as the alone Saviour for Moslem as well as for Christian.

The result of such faithful and prayerful sowing of the seed cannot be in vain. While some seeds fall by the wayside, some upon stony places, and some among thorns; other seeds are falling, we have no doubt, into good ground, bringing forth fruit to the glory of His Name.

The Bible in Morocco.

One of the encouraging features of the work is the increased demand for copies
of the Scriptures. It is a great honour to be instrumental in placing the Bible for the first time into the hands of a people.

In answer to the question: "Do the Moors want the Gospels?" the following may be quoted. An agent of the Bible Society writes: "The first day I sold over four hundred Arabic portions, the second day over two hundred copies, and so on. We were just behind the great mosque, and better class Mohammedans on their way to prayers bought portions of the Old and New Testaments. In another town, in less than an hour, I sold out the stock I had, and then the demand was greater than ever. 'Come back again soon, and bring a greater supply of books with you, they cried. In the busy market-place a woman heard me read from the Gospels, and, pleased with the message of love and forgiveness, bought two portions for her sons. A Moor standing by tried to persuade her to give the books back, but she clung to them all the more, saying, 'Nay, nay! know thou that I have bought the best thing in the market to-day?' A man was awakened to his need of a Saviour through reading the Word of God, and said, 'From this time forward I build my hope of pardon on the Lord Jesus. I believe He died for me, and that His Blood cleanses me from all sin.'"

Work Among Children.

The necessity of influencing the youth of Morocco for Christ has been constantly in the minds and prayers of the workers, and it is a matter for thankfulness that, through the blessing of God, a wide door for service among the children is now open. The extent of this fruitful and far-reaching work is now only conditioned by our limited resources in personnel and means.

The few lady workers at the various
stations are coping with it to the full limit of their time and strength, but reinforcements are urgently called for if the rising generation are to learn of Him who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." The influence of this work among the young is beyond telling, and we trust that on the part of all who have the evangelisation of Morocco at heart there will be earnest prayer concerning the development of this important work. The results already attained, in changed and enriched lives, give great promise for the future.

Visitation Work in the Homes.

There are large numbers of women in Moorish cities who will never hear the tidings of great joy unless it be told them in their own homes. They are the victims of the cruel custom by which women in Moslem lands are condemned to lives of solitude and separation. These prisoners of the harem must also hear the good
news, and the only way for them to learn is through the visitation work of our sisters. The work of visiting and caring for the sick in Mohammedan cities is no easy task, especially when epidemics of fever abound; but the arduous service is willingly undertaken by the Missionaries. No part of the work is more fruitful in preparing the soil for the seed than this self-sacrificing service in the homes of the people.

Opportunities for commending the Gospel are invariably found, and oftentimes encouraging interest is manifested.

Medical Work.

The woes and sorrows of Moslem lands are a direct call to the Missionary to engage in the Christ-like work of healing, The Moslem, with his fatalistic ideas, feels no responsibility for the sick and suffering, and callously leaves them unrelieved. In those lands no provision is made for the poor, the sick, and the aged.
There are no alms-houses, no infirmaries, no orphanages, and no convalescent homes. Medical work in hospitals and dispensaries has ever been the hand-maid of the Gospel, and nowhere more markedly so than in Morocco. The suspicion of early years has vanished, and crowded attendances are the rule at our various dispensaries. The work calls for great patience and great love. A traveller writes: "Hospital practice in England is an epicurean pastime compared with the horror of these cases. Imagine the most loathsome diseases of the East and the West to be handled often in a temperature of over 100 in the shade, and the same thing going on day after day and year after year." This work, as we can well believe, greatly impresses the Moors, and it is a matter that calls for no surprise that this service of love, patiently continued in the Name of Jesus, has broken down ill-will and been the means of opening hearts to receive the message of the Gospel. No wonder the Missionaries are known far and near as "the friends of the poor," for the language of love is intelligible everywhere.

No better opportunity could be desired for the proclamation of the Gospel than in these rooms consecrated by sympathy and Christ-like service. To the poor, the sorrowful, and the suffering, the Gospel is preached as the Balm of Life and Hope of Heaven.

A Shelter for the Homeless.

At Mazagan, through the kindness of English friends, a house has been built where the poor and homeless may find a hospitable shelter. This refuge is greatly appreciated, and is largely taken advantage of by the natives. Mr. James T. Gow, our Missionary at Mazagan, is thankful for the opportunity of showing kindness to those strangers, and of speaking to them words whereby they may be saved.
Work Among Jews.

One of our workers, Mr David Muir, has felt himself called to devote his time to the evangelising of the Jews in Southern Morocco. Wherever he meets these scattered sons of Israel, in the streets, in the caravansera, in their homes, he puts before them the story of Jesus of Nazareth as their long looked for Messiah.

Thanks.

The Council of the Mission thank very cordially the many friends through whose generous help they have been enabled to continue this work for the Master during another year. They feel sure that this service on behalf of the work in Morocco will be continued, and they trust in an increasing measure. Although much has been done to make known the salvation of the Lord to the people of Morocco it should not be forgotten that the work still suffers for the lack of workers and means.

Were more help available new classes of children could be gathered and taught, new stations could be opened, for there are still many towns in Southern Morocco
without a Missionary; villages could be evangelised, and the existing work supplemented and strengthened.

If all our many helpers would each do a little more, according to their ability, the aggregate amount at the close of the year would show a very encouraging increase in the funds of the Mission.

Prayer

We plead for intercessors who will bear upon their hearts the needs of Morocco. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore."

Because the need is so great, and because the workers are so few the Lord is calling us to engage with increasing diligence in this high ministry of intercession. May there come to all of us a fresh comprehension of the needs of the work and a fresh consecration of ourselves for their fulfilment.

SOUTHERN MOROCCO MISSION.

Origin.—Founded in 1888 under circumstances which conveyed a clear and imperative call to take up work in a needy and unoccupied part of the Mission Field.

Object.—To carry the Gospel to the Moors, Jews, Arabs, and Berber tribes of South Morocco, and the regions beyond,

Methods.—Preaching the Gospel; Medical Work in Hospitals, Dispensaries, and in the People's Homes; Female Missions to the Women; Children's Homes and Classes; Itineration; and Scripture Distribution.

Support.—The Mission is supported entirely by the free-will offerings of the Lord's people. Its needs are laid before God in prayer, and information regarding the work is given in the Organ of the Mission, or otherwise.