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News and Notes

A Monthly Paper printed for the private use of the
Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League.

Series XI

No. 8

August, 1923.

1st August = 17th Zu'l-Hijjah (12th mo.), 1341, A.H.

Dealing with Enquirers

I

THIS was the question set before us in the July issue. We have the same experience in our field also. There is no doubt that God is sending these people to us, to test us whether we, as a Church, are prepared to receive these men in His name, to teach, to influence, and to help them to know the Saviour.

We have been thinking much over this, and a few thoughts have come to our mind which we pass on to our friends thinking they will be of some help to them.

a. THE ENQUIRER AND THE CHURCH.

This must be the Church's work as well as the missionaries'. The Church should take interest in this work, and the whole burden should not be thrown on the missionaries. Therefore the enquirer should be introduced to the church; and let the church arrange to keep him for a little time; and help him to come out as a true Christian. This can be easily done if the members of the church, realize their duty towards the seeker. As we have some big churches, an enquirer's fund may be opened; this fund will be of great help; and the money can be spent for the benefit of these enquirers, in the way the church thinks proper.

b. THE ENQUIRER AND THE WORKERS.

There are Indian workers everywhere helping the missionaries but most of the work in dealing with the enquirers is often left to the missionaries, but we, as Indian workers, should take the responsibility as well, for we are consecrated to this great service, and we are working for the salvation of others; and so we should sacrifice all for His

glory, and for the welfare of others. Can we not, as workers, entertain these enquirers in our houses for some time? and thus share the burden of the missionaries, and help our fellow-countrymen to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I say that we can do it, and we will not be losers if we receive them in the name of God.

c. THE ENQUIRER AND HIS PEOPLE.

This is a great problem. Can we send the enquirer back to his home? I would say yes, without any hesitation if he knows his Saviour, and if he is firm in his belief. This can be done by the help of God, when he has once realized the truths of the Gospel.

This is a time when individuals are coming out, but as we read in Acts, the families will come out, and we are expecting this; but how? Through these new converts; and so this work of bringing his family must be an immediate work; and he should be encouraged to do this, and we as church members, workers, and the missionaries should support him in every way, fighting with him against the enemy, and above all when God is with us shall we not come out successfully? Then the convert will be a member of his own family, and his people will try to find something for his future life, as well as we in the Christian Church. May these few words be to His Glory.*

D. K. BADSHAH

(*An Indian worker.*)

“How few are lovers of the Cross of Jesus”

YESUS hath now many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His Cross. Many He hath that are desirous of consolation, but few of tribulation. Many He findeth that share His table, but few His fasting. All desire to rejoice with Him, few are willing to endure any thing for Him. Many follow Jesus unto the breaking of bread; but few to the drinking of the Cup of His Passion. Many reverence His miracles, few follow the shame of His Cross.

A. KEMPIS.

* [The account of Mr. Badshah's conversion, written by himself, appeared in News and Notes, February, 1916. A few copies of that issue are still to be had and can be sent to those who forward, one anna for postage. Ed.]

Notes.

Muslim Women in East Bengal eager to hear.—One of the first ladies to join the League reports:—‘About ten years ago, a split took place in the camp of the Muhammadans here owing to the leading maulvi in Brahmanbaria becoming a Qadiani. This has made work among them easier. At present the desire to know is great and it is not an uncommon experience for women to run out to call one in to hear. In villages where we have previously worked, they no longer ask about Jesus being the Son of God. They know the answer. The chief question now is “How can a man die and be raised again?” This makes a splendid opportunity for us. We can now drop the use of the term ‘nabi’ and be understood. “They (the Christians) have the best *kitab*” is sometimes heard. One man put it this way, “we have the tree, they have the fruit.” The Qadianis are progressive and it is among them that we find the desire for the education of their girls greatest. One wonders to whom this new faith is but a blind alley and to whom, a half-way house. We labour on in hope.’

A. L. COWLES.

* * * * *

A similar spirit of enquiry seems to be showing itself amongst Muslims in various parts of India, and we hope to hear that it is so in other lands. A most interesting old man came to us the other day, declaring that for ten years he has felt drawn towards Christ and Christianity. He says he is over 70. His attention was first aroused (as has been the case with so many) by the exalted titles given to Christ in the *Quran* itself. He then went on to tell us something the like of which we have never heard of before. He knows and understands Arabic, and has, for a considerable time, been repeating these *Quranic* verses in praise of Jesus, in the place of the usual portions prescribed for prayer in the daily *namaz*, assuring us that Muslims to right and left of him could not for the life of them see anything wrong in his utterances, since they scarcely understand the portions they themselves repeat! He seems truly concerned to throw in his lot with the only worthy Saviour; he despairs of Muhammad. He has procured and read the Gospels and Goldsack's ‘Christ in Islam’ and other books, without our knowing him. Indeed he has only come on to the horizon during the last few weeks. He says he must be baptized very soon, and in the meantime is trying to influence the members of his family.

* * * * *

A New Link with China.—A notable acquisition to the ranks of the League is the Rev. Isaac Mason (Shanghai), of the C.L.S. in China. He has already done great service for the Muslims of that land by translating useful books such as: ‘The Life of Muhammad’; ‘Christ in Islam’; ‘Sweet First Fruits’; ‘Ghulam's Renunciation’; ‘A Muhammadan brought to Christ’ (Dr. Imad-ud-din) &c. He writes to say that he is one with us in objects and efforts and that at present he is laying further foundations by investigation work, especially of Moslem Bibliography in Chinese.

* * * * *

Recent Converts in India.—We recall that in sending in his well-wishes to the Editor for the new year, a loyal member expressed the hope that the Lord would let us see some fruit this year, however small, to encourage us in this great and difficult task. That hope is being realized in

India. News comes to hand of baptisms here and there. Thus writes one of our members, the Secretary of the B.M.S. in Calcutta: "I baptized a young man from Jessore yesterday afternoon; Goldsack and I have been in touch with him for the last 6 or 7 years. He has gone back to his district and hopes to continue his reading in a village high school." (This case has not been referred to before in News & Notes).

Another case is reported by a member from Dinapur. 'He was interested in our preaching and bought an Urdu pice gospel. He studied it and got into touch with our Evangelist who gave him further instruction. After a while being convinced both of his sincerity and the genuineness of his faith, he was baptized on May 16th. He is a young man of respectable family and I believe will be a true Christian.' Another member asks us to join in praise for no less than 'five converts who were baptized at Easter time. One of them is a Haji and waited 14 years for his wife to come. The other three are fruits of our mission schools' If we consider these with the two cases reported last month and others earlier in the year, it will be apparent that the hand of the Lord is with us in this work.

Vernacular Literature for the Moslems of Bengal

From time to time the importance of literature in the great task of evangelizing the Moslems, presents itself to the minds of workers and leads to enquiries as to what literature there is and where it is available. We would ask the forbearance of members of the League working in other areas for supplying in this issue, up-to-date information on this subject to the 80 members of the League in Bengal. At present almost the only depot stocking general literature for Mussalmani-Bengali speaking Moslems, is the Calcutta Christian Tract and Book Society, 23 Chowringhee, Calcutta. In answering enquiries the other day about the reprint of some publications, the Secretary of the Society made the following significant statement:— "Whilst the need of new or revised tracts is very obvious, what strikes me as the special need in Bengal is better arrangements and more zeal in the *circulation* of literature." That is one of the problems that the Survey of Literature Committee set itself to solve, and we shall await with special interest its findings. In the meantime it should be remembered that the Calcutta Tract Society has taken over the remaining stock, of Mussalmani-Bengali tracts carried by the late branch of the C.L.S. Calcutta, and it is with a view to advertise that stock as well as inform members of the League what precisely remains of it, that we append a list of such literature for Moslems as is now available at that depot.

If no mention is made of some well-known tracts, it can be taken for granted that they are out of print.

TITLE	PRICE	IN STOCK
Islame Koran (Goldsack)	... 2 pice	... 1,715
Islame Paradharmā	... 1 anna	... 1,642
„ Muhammad	... 2 „	... 1,710
Maulana Saheber Bhranti	... $\frac{1}{2}$ „	... 334
Baibal o Muhammad	... $\frac{3}{4}$ „	... 1,012
Mijan-ul-Hak (tr. of Pfander) 418 pp.	... Re. 1	... 805

TITLE	PRICE	IN STOCK
Islam (P. Biswas)	... 4 annas	... 514
Quran	... 3 annas	... 235
Muhammad	... 5 annas	... 98
Gonar kurbani chai (leaflet)	... 2 annas per 100	... 300
Injil ki batil hoyiache?	... do. do.	... 300
Khodar Beta	... do. do.	... 1,850
Agila kitab ki bole?	... do. do.	... 3,300
Barnabar Injil	... do. do.	... 6,350
Tahrif Koran	... do. do.	... 2,200
Shafayat	... do. do.	... 200
Isa ba Muhammad?	... do. do.	... 1,450
Forkan	... do. do.	... 2,350
Muhammader bayan	... do. do.	... 2,900
Farakliter bayan	... do. do.	... 2,900
Isa Masiher bishaye peshkhabar	... do. do.	... 2,000
Muhammad Saheb o Isa Masih	... do. do.	... 2,000
Muhammader begona thakar bishaye }	... 1 pice	... 618
Musalman maulvigonar shiksha }		
Isai Pak Kitab sambandhe }	... 1 pice	... 538
Koraner sakshtya }		
Golam Jabbarer tyag-svikar (W.G.)	... 4 annas	... 526
Asha taru (Sweet First Fruits)	... 2 do.	... 216
Islam Darshan (Biswas) 410 pp.	... Re. 1	... 139
Islam o amader sujog (Takte) 55 pp.	... 2 annas	... 793
Islam o Ingraji skul (Moslems & Education.)	2 annas per 100	... 300
Paedaeshnama (old tract by Raha)	... 1 pice	... 16
Chhota miar kechchha' do.	... do.	... 477
Pittaler Sanper bayan (Pir Bakhsh)	... 2 pice	... 916
Dui Musafirer bayan (B. B. Saha)	... 1 "	... 350
Sipah Salar Naman Shaher Kechchha	... 1 "	... 2,028
Ninabi Saharer rihai (Saha)	... 1 "	... 1,007
Isa Masiher chari majejar bayan	... 1 "	... 157
Isar chhay majejar bayan	... 1 "	... 750
Gunah o Najat (Raha)	... 1 "	... 2,752
Sachcha Diner Raha (Raha) 85 pp.	... 1 anna	... 171
Isa Masiher Ilahiyat o Insaniyater bayan	... ½ "	... 227
Amar kechchha (Saha)	... 1 pice	... 2,841
Gahener Kitab (Hymns) 5th Ed.	... 1 pice	... 1,074
Koran Sharif (Arabic and Bengali, Goldsack)	3 as per pt. (30 parts), Pt. 1 exhausted.	
The following can be had at the Bap. Miss. Press, 41 Lr. Circular Road, Calcutta :—		
Khush Khabar (S. S. Union, Bengal)	96 pp. 1½ anna	Total ed. 15,000
Nabider Kechchha do.	120 pp. ... 2 "	1st. ed. 5,000

A Sharp Two-edged Sword.

BY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS NOW LIVING IN RETIREMENT IN ENGLAND.

TO the house of a Mohammedan gentleman in Patna City came one morning a Lady Missionary. She rattled the door-chain, and the daughter of the house came to see who was there.

"Who is it?"

"An English lady. Do the ladies of this house wish to learn to read?"

A hurried consultation with mother, and the lady is admitted. Week after week the Gospel story is told and the reading lesson given. Mother and daughter work through the primer, and in due time purchase and begin to read the Gospels in the Urdu language.

One day the head of the family comes in and notices a small book lying on a stool. He picks it up and reads the title: "The Gospel!" "What is this book doing in my house?"

"Father dear, the English lady who teaches mamma and myself to read brought that book for us to read, and we are deeply interested in it. It is a very beautiful story: is it not true that the Gospel is the Word of God?"

"Yes, my child, the Gospel is the word of God which came down to the great Prophet, the Lord Jesus the Son of Mary (on him be peace), and it is full of beautiful stories of the miracles of kindness wrought by that great Prophet, so I have heard. I have never read the book myself. The Illustrious Quran is quite sufficient for the true believer, besides which the Christians pervert the meaning of certain passages. They actually try to prove from the Gospel that there are three Gods; God the Father, Jesus Christ, and his mother the Lady Mary, the Holy Virgin (praised be God!) and moreover they try to prove that those wicked Jews crucified the Lord Jesus, the Son of Mary; as if God would allow such a wicked deed to be done! No, my daughter, this is a dangerous book."

"That is a pity, for the book is so beautiful. Father, would it not be a good thing if you would read it through yourself, so that you could give mamma and me the correct meaning of such passages as those you mention?"

The father was inclined to think his daughter's suggestion a good one, and went to the Mission House near by and bought a copy of the Urdu New Testament. He purchased it with hostile intent, and for some time plied the missionary from whom he bought it with difficult and captious questions. But as the late Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Lefroy, once said to another man who was doing the same thing, "you have in your hand a sharp two-edged sword, and you are holding it not by the hilt, but by the point, and it will pierce your heart." And so it happened. The beauty of the Incarnate Son of God shone through the pages of the Book and in due time won the allegiance of father, mother and daughter.

The father became a preacher of the Gospel, his high birth and former social position giving him access to many houses which are not usually open to the average Evangelist. The eldest son and his wife, who were living in Calcutta, were very shocked and angry when they heard of the "apostacy" of their family, but they were led to think and study the question for themselves, their conversion being the result. There were three younger boys, who came to our Christian Boarding School, and are now serving the Lord Christ in various secular callings. The daughter came to the Girls' Boarding School. In spite of being handicapped by the age at which she began school life, she made good progress and, in due time, rose to the highest class, and then entered the training class for Women Teachers, gained her Certificate and was appointed a Teacher.

There was one fact that marked her stay in the School and Hostel. From time to time four, five, six elder girls or students would apply for Church Membership. In many cases when the question was put "How

came you to think of these things? What led you to seek Christ as your Saviour?" the answer would come: "Sister Firozi earnestly pressed me to give myself to Christ."

The missionary who sold the New Testament and resolved the enquirer's difficulties was driven by age and enfeebled health to retire some years ago. I saw the lady who taught the girl and her mother—too wearied out with labour and deferred furlough to put up a fight against an attack of cholera—yield her spirit to the Master whom she had served so well; but the two-edged sword is as sharp as ever, and as mighty.

G. J. DANN.

The Moslem World Magazine for July, 1923.

The Cross as a Missionary Problem.

TO be thrown back wholly on Divine resources, to be baffled by all human argument, to find that which all Christians hold most precious, a stumbling-block and an offense to the multitudes—such is the daily experience of missionaries in Moslem lands. The July number of the **MOSLEM WORLD** contains much other interesting matter but might well bear as its sub-title "The Offense of the Cross."

Three of its most important articles deal with the Crucifixion. The Rev. E. E. Elder in a critical study of the Koran text and of Moslem commentators, throws new light on the question why Islam denies the historicity and cruciality of the death of our Lord. Kamul-ud-Din's sermon on the Passion, delivered in a London mosque, and reprinted here, is startlingly significant of the chasm that separates even educated Moslems from Christianity. Another writer gives an illuminating account of the so-called "Gospel of Barnabas" which many Moslems consider the real evangel.

The leading article by Dr. J. F. Edwards, of India, is on the "Comfort of the Holy Spirit" in relation to all these baffling difficulties and misunderstandings. No one can read it without conviction and prayer.

Other articles are entitled: *New Movements Among Chinese Moslems*; *A Hindu Apologist for Islam*; *Nationalism and Evangelism in Egypt*, and *Fifty Years in Persia*, the latter is by the Rev. James W. Hawkes, D.D., of the American Presbyterian Mission.

Dr. S. M. Zwemer contributes a new survey of the Moslem world population. According to the figures given there are 204, 429 Moslems in North and South America, 17, 769, 957 in Europe, 154, 678, 909 in Asia and Islands and 60, 948, 397 in Africa—a total of 233, 601, 692.

The Current Topics, Book Reviews and Survey of Periodicals furnish information on many lands from many sources not easily accessible to the average reader. While there are ten or twelve English magazines and reviews published by Moslem propagandists, the "Moslem World" is the only one in English devoted to this problem from a Christian view-point so that those interested in the evangelization of the millions of Mohammedans throughout the world cannot afford to neglect this Quarterly.

Published by the Missionary Review Publishing Co.,
156, Fifth Avenue, New York City.

New rates for 1923—50 cts. a copy and \$2.00 a year.

For Praise and Prayer.

- PRAISE** for the several converts reported on in this issue, and prayer for each and all of them that they may not falter in testifying for the True Prophet in their village homes, and that they may be kept by the grace of God in times of persecution.
- PRAISE** for the awakening interest reported amongst village women in Bengal; also for "five other Muslim enquirers in North Bengal who have expressed a desire to be baptized."
- PRAYER** is asked for the aged Muslim who has expressed an earnest desire to be baptized, that the way may be made quiet clear for him to take this step; also pray for a promising young Muslim enquirer in North Bengal, "that he may come out for Christ."
- PRAYER** is asked 'that the way may be opened up for the return to India of a missionary who is anxious to do so, but is prevented because of 'retrenchment' on the part of the society with which he was working.'
- PRAY** for a young girl in Egypt believed to be a Christian at heart, but betrothed to a Muslim who will not release her; "that she may stand firm whatever happens, and if possible be left with us, and released from her betrothal."

NEW MEMBERS.

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|------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 333. | Rev. R. W. Edmcades, | B. M. S. | Dinajpur, N. Bengal | (6th Day) |
| 334. | Rev. G. N. Gibson | B. M. S. | Dinapur, Bihar. | (11th ,,) |
| 335. | Rev. Lucien B. Jones, | M. E. M. | Aligarh, U. P. | (22nd ,,) |
| 336. | Dr. J. G. Martin, M. D. | A. P. M. | Taxila, Panjab | (18th ,,) |
| 337. | Miss E. Watson, | Z. B. M. M. | Khurja U. P. | (24th ,,) |

The last figure indicates the number now in membership.

For the enlightenment of those whose numbers are over 300 we would explain that "6th Day" &c. has reference to a list of members issued last year which is divided up into 30 groups for use as a prayer cycle. Unfortunately we did not anticipate such a rapid increase in membership, and when our figure stood at 275 printed 300 only. If funds permit we propose to reissue the list.

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0 (English about 3s.) The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies of this issue to addresses mentioned by members with a view to securing new subscribers. News and requests for prayer will always be welcome and should be sent early in the month to the Hon. Secretary:—

Rev. L. Bevan Jones,
Baptist Mission,
Dacca, Bengal, India.