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## News and Notes

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

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Series XVI

No. 2

February, 1928.

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1st February = 8th Shaban (8th mo.), 1346, A.H.

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### The Past Year.

**W**ITH our membership standing at the high figure of 600 we have unmistakable evidence of the growing determination among Christian workers, particularly in India, to give a more adequate place in their lives to the service of Muslims. We thank God for this. The venture of faith in this direction that followed the Lucknow Conference of 1911 has been abundantly justified and signally blessed. The Lord has been thrusting out more and yet more workers into this neglected field. The past year brought seventy-four more people into the League. Many of these were the fruit of Dr. Zwemer's Conferences in different parts of the country.

Yet the recently completed Survey of the N.C.C., concerning the strength of Islam in India and the extent of missionary enterprise among Muslims, has proved conclusively—if proof were needed—that the number of those who are making the needs of Muslims their chief concern is still woefully small: that India is, in this respect, an unoccupied field, though a field presenting exceptional opportunities for friendly approach. We are, therefore, especially grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Zwemer for their services at this juncture, and for the new recruits enlisted for the cause in response to their persuasive appeals.

We rejoice also with those keen spirits in China who have banded themselves together into a 'Society of Friends for the Muslims' of that great land. We as the parent League look with pride on so vigorous an offshoot as this new branch.

Meanwhile Muslim leaders are more than usually active in their attempts to prove that Islam is equal to the demands of the age. The methods they employ are often strangely contrasted. On the one hand we have the old conservative party showing a desperate concern to retain elements that in reality are long since outworn, and on the

other, we see the rationalistic school casting off embarrassing legacies in an endeavour to render Islam acceptable to the awakened mind of to-day.

While these things excite our sympathy they should also reveal to us our opportunity. Let us understand the significance of such signs of restlessness and take courage. The Spirit of the Living God is at work in the heart of Islam. Who would not be a friend for Muslims in this new day?

## Department of Islamic Studies

Theological Seminary, Bareilly, U.P.

IN January 1926 the department opened with two students, and at the end of the year 1927 the total number of old and new students amounted to twelve. Five of these had taken one year's course, two studied for three months taking a special brief course in the study of Islamic principles, two are in the first year, and three are in the second year of their studies. Students have represented the United Provinces, the Panjab, Gujarat and South India. Though the majority of the students were from the Methodist Mission, the class included one missionary from the Brethren in Christ Mission and one pastor from the Lutheran Church. A lady from Hyderabad took a short course of Islamic principles and the method of approach. Besides class work, other activities may be noted as follows:—

*Laboratory Work*:—Students are trained to study the local peculiarities of Islam, and are asked to report on Muslim festivals, makhtabs, urs, etc. Whenever occasions permit they are taken to Muslim religious gatherings and are made to see and get acquainted with the popular Islam of the people. Saturdays are devoted to direct evangelistic work.

*The Study of Muslim Propaganda*:—Last year, with the help of the advanced students, an investigation was made into the extent, strength and the method of Muslim propaganda in N. India. This research work has provided the department with a large collection of reports, publications and records of the work of Islamic propaganda and its method.

*The Arabic Correspondence Course*:—Any missionary desiring to learn Arabic without the assistance of a Munshi can order a copy of *Arabic Simplified* by A. T. Upson from the Nile Mission Press, 37 Sh. Almanakh, Cairo, (Price, Rs. 2-8-0 post free), and begin to work at the graded exercises and send in papers to the undersigned for correction and instruction.

*The Islamic Book Store*:—The aim of the store is to help missionaries in any part of India to make their selection of Urdu literature on Islam. Any book on any question in regard to Islam can be supplied by merely mentioning one's difficulty or want. One hundred and twenty-five such books and tracts were reviewed last year by the department.

*The Aim of the Department:*—Our aim is to produce Christian workers who, during their brief stay in the department, shall learn to understand Islam and to love Muslims and be filled with a longing to win them for Christ.

Dr. Zwemer's recent visit to Bareilly and his inspection of the department were a source of great encouragement and inspiration. His visit has left on the hearts of the members of the Islamic department, and the Seminary, and on every Christian in Bareilly a deep and lasting impression. In fact his visit to India is an indirect reply to the challenge offered by the All-India Tablig Conference held in Christmas week under the chairmanship of Lord Headley. India to-day is the centre of the Muslim propaganda in the Christian World. Will the Christian Church in India be the centre of the evangelization of the Muslim World? Have you responded to Dr. Zwemer's visit? You can do something, by sending some candidate to be prepared for work among Muslims to the department of Islamic studies at Bareilly. It is interdenominational, the study of the method of approach is sympathetic; the study of Islamics and Arabic is simple and yet comprehensive, and it involves no great financial outlay. Please write for further information to,

J. A. SUBHAN.

## **Christian Literature for Muslims, India.**

### **A Five-Year Program,**

**I**NCLUDING English there are apparently twelve languages of India used by Muslims in which there should be Christian literature designed especially for Muslims. These are Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Sindhi, Pushtu, Kashmiri, Tamil, Malayalam, Oriya, Telugu and Hindi. If there are others we shall be glad to learn of them with details of population using them, literacy, etc.

It is felt that in each of these languages there is a certain minimum need which should be recognized. To meet this need, a Minimum Program has been prepared, which if adopted should be completed in a period of five years from the time of its adoption by the Provincial Literature Committee with which any given language area is associated. Our committee has reason to believe, also, that if such programs are adopted by the various language areas, the American Christian Literature Society for Muslims of New York, of which Dr. Zwemer is a prominent member and Field Secretary, will give us substantial grants to carry out the program.

You will be interested to know, further, that the Urdu language area already has completed its "Minimum Program," and in addition has much besides. All literature in Urdu, which is widely used all over India, is obtainable from the Sec'y of the Punjab Religious Book Society, Anarkali Rd., Lahore, and a catalogue will be sent free to anyone. Also, in the Bengali area, the "Minimum Program" as given below has been adopted, and it is planned to complete it by 1933. So you see a good start has been made; BUT we want to get each Language Area to develop the Minimum Program, so that by 1935 at the latest we shall be able to report that this modest minimum goal has been attained. I am sure you

will be interested in this Program, and will be glad for the suggestions of the committee.

1. *What is the "Minimum Program"?* The Central Committee, Cairo, has suggested that each Muslim Language Area in the world of Islam should be supplied with a certain minimum of literature dealing with the chief phases of the Christian message as specifically related to the needs of the Muslim heart and mind. Nine subjects on that list have been recently chosen by the C.L.M.C. for the India Program, together with basic manuscripts in English which are, or will be, available for reference or translation into any language.

2. *The Minimum Program for India consists of the following proposals:*

- (a) A Short Life of Christ. "*The Best Friend*," L. Bevan Jones. C.L.S., Madras. 2 as. plain. 4 as. illustrated.
- (b) Old Testament Stories. "*Stories of the Prophets*:" an English MS. now in preparation by Miss H. McLean, Bengal.
- (c) Instruction for enquirers. cf. "*Christian Life and Faith*," W.H.T. Gairdner, C.M.S., Boulac, Cairo; or "*What the Christians Teach?*" by E. Stanley Jones.
- (d) Christ the Conqueror of all our Fears. Seven tracts by Macintyre, (C.M.S.). S.P.C.K. Jerusalem.
- (e) Inspiration of the Scriptures. "*Inspiration*," W.H.T. Gairdner, Cairo. C.L.S., Madras. One anna.
- (f) The Christian meaning of Sin, Repentance and Forgiveness. Suggested for reference: the translation of Ghazali on Repentance (Tauba) by Naish in *The Moslem World*, Jan. 1926, with certain Christian adaptations which are necessary.
- (g) The Crucifixion. cf. "*How the death of Christ differs from that of Saints and Martyrs*." J. J. Lucas. C.L.S., Madras.
- (h) Stories of Conversion and Christian Experience. e. g., "*The Life of S. M. Khan, Afghani*," as abridged in the *Moslem World* for April, 1928.
- (i) The Christian meaning of Prayer with some examples. Possibly some adaptation of Fosdick's "*Meaning of Prayer*" could be used.

3. *How to proceed to get the Minimum Program adopted.* The matter should first of all be placed before the Moslem Work Committee of the Provincial Christian Council of your Language Area, IF your Council has such a committee. If not, then directly to the Literature Committee of your Provincial Council. If there is a committee on Moslem Work, then this committee will make such recommendations as it sees fit to the Literature Committee. If the Literature Committee so desires it may refer the matter back to the committee on work among Moslems with power to make its own recommendations.

The next step will then be for your committee to proceed to make its applications for grants for the publication of certain items of the Minimum Program. This is done by securing forms from the Sec'y of the C.L.M.C. i.e. the undersigned. These forms are then to be given to the Printer who is to print the book or tract. He will make out the estimate of the total cost, and the grant required. The form when completed must be signed by the Printer who made out the estimate, and by the Secretary of the Provincial Christian Council Literature Committee or by the Secretary of the Committee on Moslem Work if the matter has been referred back to

the Moslem Work Committee. After these forms have been duly filled in and signed, they are to be sent to the Secretary of the C.L.M.C., who will in due course present them to the C.L.M.C. for approval and inclusion in the applications for grants sent to the A.C.L.S.M., New York. Our C.L.M.C. is recognized in New York as the representative of the A.C.L.S.M. in India, and its actions are given due consideration. Up-to-date the A.C.L.S.M. has given large grants for books and tracts in eight of the twelve languages used in India, so we can guarantee that, at last, relief is in sight for the Muslim literature needs of ALL the language areas of India.

The C.L.M.C. has just held a most important meeting in Allahabad with Dr. Zwemer present.

Estimates from six Language Areas were presented and most carefully dealt with. After the sifting process was completed the following applications for grants were approved and recommended by the C.L.M.C. for the favourable consideration of the A.C.L.S.M. in New York.

<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>Grant asked for</b>
1.	"The Straight Path," Takle ... ..	Rs. 244
2.	"The Inward Way," Takle ... ..	" 214
3.	"Why Maulvi Sultan Muhammad Paul became a Christian," Autobiography ... ..	" 200
4.	"Stories of the Prophets" Pt. I. Miss H. McLean ... ..	" 143
5.	" " " " Pt. II. " " ... ..	" 143
6.	"Glad Tidings" Miss C. Williams ... ..	" 297
7.	"The Qur'an Pt. I, Arabic text and Bengali translation with commentary, W. Goldsack ... ..	" 348 Rs. 1,589
<b>TAMIL.</b>		
1.	"What do Christians Teach," E. Stanley Jones ... ..	Rs. 44
2.	"Christianity the Final Religion," Zwemer ... ..	" 121
3.	"The Best Friend," L. Bevan Jones ... ..	" 145
4.	"The Forgiveness of Sins," G. G. Findlay ... ..	" 121
5.	"God as Triune," W. H. T. Gairdner ... ..	" 196 Rs. 627
<b>ORIYA.</b>		
1.	"The Best Friend," L. Bevan Jones ... ..	Rs. 292
2.	"The True Burden Bearer," Hridananda Babu ... ..	" 56
3.	"The Death and Resurrection of Jesus" ... ..	" 56 Rs. 404
<b>GUJARATI.</b>		
	"The Best Friend," L. Bevan Jones ... ..	Rs. 292 Rs. 292
<b>HINDI.</b>		
	"The Best Friend," L. Bevan Jones ... ..	Rs. 292 Rs. 292
<b>URDU.</b>		
	22 Items making a total of ... ..	Rs. 6,422
	Grand Total ... ..	<u>Rs. 9,626</u>

We are sure that the above Report will convince you that things are beginning to move in India! Take what steps you can to insure that the needs of your particular district are being met.

On behalf of the C.L.M.C.

*M. E. Mission.  
Hardoi, U. P.*

*M. T. TRUS.  
Secretary.*

## Course of Islamics in Bengali at Dacca.

**A**DVANTAGE was taken during the presence of missionaries from outlying stations at the Zwemer Conference in Dacca in December to work out the practical details connected with the Bengal and Assam C. C.'s proposal to inaugurate a short summer school for the study of Islamics at Dacca.

The chief aim of this school will be to acquaint students with the religious life and practices of Bengal Muslims, their misunderstandings of Christian truth and consequent prejudices, and to point out the methods of approach and the way to present the Christian Gospel.

The Dacca Conference agreed to recommend the following particulars to the B. and A. Council at its forthcoming meeting in March:

- 1.—That the course be for at least four weeks in the month of May, terminating with an examination.
- 2.—That the details of the syllabus be left to the members of the teaching staff.
- 3.—That accommodation for at least twelve women and twelve men can be secured during May on the premises of the Baptist Mission, Dacca.
- 4.—That no fee be charged for the course.
- 5.—That the charge for messing and service will be approximately Rs. 10-0-0 per mensem.
- 6.—That Missions sending students for the course be asked to pay their travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, together with a small allowance for text-books.
- 7.—That the Council be requested to meet the travelling and out-of-pocket expenses of visiting teachers, and to make an initial library grant of Rs. 25-0-0.

It was understood that the staff will consist of Messrs. D. K. Badshah, (Karimganj), D. A. Chowdhury, B.A., B.D., (Budge Budge) and L. Bevan Jones: (vide B. and A.C.C. Proceedings, March 1926, Resol. v. p. 8.)

In all probability the Council will approve of the above suggestions; it remains therefore for those who have workers—bible-women, preachers, catechists,—likely to benefit from such a course, to get into communication with the undersigned at an early date:—

Dacca.

L. BEVAN JONES.

## New Literature for Muslims in Bengali

**T**HERE were available at Dacca for those who foregathered for Dr. Zwemer's Conference two books that had just issued from the Press:

These are *Sachcha Dost*—the Mussalmani-Bengali translation of *The Best Friend* by Mr. D. A. Chowdhury—104 pp 12 illustrations, price, one anna: and *Asha Taru*—the 3rd edition of the Bengali version of Sir William Muir's English text of the famous story, *Sweet First Fruits*—130 pp. Two annas. We trust a good sale is assured for both. Orders should be sent to the Calcutta Christian Tract Society, 41, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta.

We append a review of *Asha Taru* by Mr. D. A. Chowdhury:—

If the Christian forces in this vast province of Bengal are effectively to meet and ultimately supersede Islam, it must be mainly through the broad-casting of popular Christian literature attractively written.

One such Christian effort is *Asha Taru* (The Tree of Hope). The preface informs us that it is a story. The story opens with a letter written by an earnest Christian to a Muhammadan friend of his. The letter sets forth in a few words the essence of Christianity and the claims of Christ upon Muhammadans. It deals briefly but ably with the questions of corruption and abrogation of Christian Scriptures and refutes the charges admirably. Almost all the stock objections of Moslems to Christianity are handled, discussed and shown to be unreasonable. The three types of Moslem attitude to the Christian Scriptures that we find around us are set forth, *viz.*, the traditionalist, conservative and progressive. The Quranic verses quoted in the book are calculated to stir a sincere Moslem to think of his duty towards Christ and the Christian Scriptures. The questionings of many a Moslem convert before his public acceptance of Christ are graphically depicted.

The story sets forth many of the trials and temptations whereby Moslem converts are persuaded to go back to their old faith. All this is most instructive to the missionary, because he can acquaint himself with the difficulties likely to come before his converts, and helpful also to future converts, because it describes the difficulties they will have to face after their public confession. It shows how they can prepare themselves beforehand to meet these with courage when they come.

This is a book which should be in the hands of every Christian worker among Moslems.

### Dr. Zwemer's Conferences

Dr. and Mrs. Zwemer conclude their series of Conferences this month. We shall continue to follow them with interest and support them with our prayers. Their engagements will probably be as follows:—

- February 1st—5th. Lectures at Madura.  
do 6th—10th. Probably will visit Calicut—Mapillas.  
do 12th, Sunday. Colpetti, Ceylon—Wesleyan Church.  
do 13th—19th. Lectures at Kandy. (C/o. Thos. Cook & Son),  
do 20th—23rd. " " Colombo.  
do 24th. Address the Christian Council.  
do 28th. Sail from Colombo, by S. S. "D'Artagnan".  
Cairo Address: C/o American Mission.

### Notes.

A *REVIEW* of *Kawaifu'l-Arab*, (The Arab before Islam), by Rev. Gulam Masih, Editor of *Nur Afshan*, Lahore—in Persian Urdu, pp. 184 14 as.

The study of the history of pre-Islamic Arabia in order to get a right understanding of the rise of Islam, is very important. Rev. Gulam Masih is the first author to give us a real historical study of the subject in Urdu. *Kawaiful Arab* treats in an interesting, yet in a scientific way, of the national and religious history of pre-Islamic Arabia. The research works of Western scholars of the Orient, the writings of the early Muslim and Arab historians, and the ancient records on tablets and monuments are freely and diligently used by the author. It comprises the history of Arabia from 2,000 B.C., to 570 A.D. For a proper background of the origin of Islam, the study of the subject is essential, and hence for a systematic study of Islam, it should be included in the curriculum of Islam studies.

J. A. S.

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An Indian member working in North Bengal having attended Dr. Zwemer's Conference in Calcutta returned to find this cause for joy awaiting him :

"Immediately afterwards, on my return, we had the joy of our first baptism when our senior Mahommedan teacher publicly confessed Christ as Lord and Saviour in his own village two miles out from town. Persecution began almost immediately. His wife has been snatched away by her relatives. But his elderly sister and some of the children are sticking to him. It is a matter of thankfulness that the scholars of his school have not struck but are remaining quiet and faithful. Please pray for this new brother in Christ and also for a few others who are expected soon to follow his example."

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*Subscriptions collected with this issue.* Subscriptions from members in India are being collected by V.P.P. with this issue. It was found impossible to do this at the New Year. The slender cash balance in hand compels us to ask members to pay the additional two annas charged by the Post Office as Registration fee on V.P.P. articles.

Once more may we request all those who contemplate taking furlough or changing stations to advise us of their new address.

### M. M. League

#### Financial Statement, 1927.

Receipts.	Rs. A. P.	Expenditure.	Rs. A. P.
Balance from 1926	112 5 9	Printers' Bills	852 4 0
Members' subscriptions	893 1 9	List of Members	69 8 0
		Postages	36 6 6
		Office Sundries	32 7 0
			<hr/>
			990 9 6
		Balance	14 14 0
			<hr/>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	Rs. 1,005 7 6		Rs. 1,005 7 6

Audited and found correct, C. HODGKINSON. 20-1-28.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Miss Bennett,	C.E.Z.M.S.	Nallur, Dt. Tinnevely.
Mr. P. Amanat,	C.M.S.	Hyderabad, Deccan.
Mrs. H. Linn,	M.E.M.	Vikarabad, Deccan.

*The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0 (English 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 request 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.

Edited and published by Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Dacca, Bengal, and printed at the Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, by S. F. Robinson, Superintendent.