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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 XVII

No. 1

January, 1929.

1st January = 19th Rajab (7th mo.), 1347, A.H.

Looking Ahead.

THERE is abundant evidence that we are approaching the New Year with an energy born of a belief in the task, and a knowledge of the needs of the soil. Projects long dreamed of have become actual, and the year ahead is to be one of renewed effort, along the old and some newer channels of effort. The following news items are more than encouraging, and should inspire each of us to new faith.

The Christian School of Islamic Studies.

THE Managing Committee of the Christian School of Islamic Studies (C.S.I.S.) was held in Lucknow on the 30th of November with a full attendance of all members. In addition, Rev. W. Paton, Secretary of the International Missionary Council, and Rev. Noble, Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society were present, and made valuable contributions toward the discussion. The Rev. Bishop J. W. Robinson was elected temporary Chairman, and Rev. M. T. Titus was chosen Minute Secretary. It was decided that there should be at least three members on the staff, two missionaries and one Indian, and that a fourth member in the person of another Indian should be chosen if suitable arrangements could be made.

The following appointments to the staff were made at once and it is understood that they have been accepted :

1. *Principal*, The Rev. L. Bevan Jones, B.A., B.D.
2. The Rev. L. E. Browne, M.A., B.D.

It is understood that every effort will be made to have the School open in Lahore by Nov. 1, 1929.

The following missions are co-operating in this enterprise : The Baptist Missionary Society, the C.M.S., the M.E. Mission, the Wesleyan Missionary Society, the S.P.G., and the National Christian Council. It is hoped that other missions will find it possible to join in this worthy union enterprise in due course.

For further information concerning the School please apply to the Principal, Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Baptist Mission, Dacca, Bengal.

M. T. TITUS,

Secretary.

Christian Literature for Muslims Committee.

Minutes of the Meeting held at Lucknow, November 29, 1928.

THE regular annual meeting of the C.L.M.C. was held in Lucknow at the home of Dr. F. C. Aldrich on Nov. 29th 1928, at 11:00 A.M. We were led in a brief devotional period by the Rev. L. Bevan Jones. The following members were present: Prof. R. Siraj-ud-din who was elected Chairman, Prof. M. Md. Ismail, Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Mr. John A. Subhan and Rev. M. T. Titus, Secretary. Rev. M. S. Pitt was absent due to illness.

The Report of the Secretary showed that a considerable step forward had been taken during the year in the matter of arousing interest in other language areas such as Gujarati, where a special committee has been formed, Pushtu, Telugu, Malayalam and Kashmiri, and requests for grants have come from all of them except the two last. The Secretary also reported that the requests of the C.L.M.C. presented to the A.C.L.S.M. last Decem̄ber had been considered by the A.C.L.S.M. in its April meeting with the result that a most generous grant of Rs. 8,387-1-5 was given covering most of the items asked for by us at the Allahabad meeting. The Secretary was instructed to send to the A.C.L.S.M. a further expression of our great appreciation of their splendid service to the cause of literature for Moslems in India.

The Report of the Literature Worker in Urdu, J. A. Subhan, was made, which revealed that no special work had been assigned to him during the year as formerly, and also that owing to special family difficulties he had not been able to undertake anything on his own initiative. In view of the above it was decided to request the I. L. F. that the grant of Rs. 350/- for 1928 set aside for this purpose be made available by them for the Bengali literature work for 1929.

Treasurer of the C.L.M.C. After due consideration of the matter of the best way to handle our funds in the future, it was

decided that we should elect our own Treasurer for this purpose. M. T. Titus was elected, and was requested to arrange with the N.C.C. Secretary, Dr. MacNicol, for the transfer of the money at an early date.

The Annual Meeting. After discussion regarding the most suitable date for the annual meeting it was decided that this should be held regularly each year between the 15th and 30th of November inclusive. It was also pointed out that henceforth the expenses of this meeting could no longer be carried by the N.C.C., and the Treasurer was requested to try to arrange for this item of expense from interest on bank balances, or special deposits.

A Special C.L.M.C. Application Form was approved, and 500 copies were ordered printed by the Secretary.

Rules for Grants were carefully considered and approved, and were ordered printed on the back of the Application Form.

A Book on Islam for Christian Workers. The need of having a book of this sort was greatly felt. The Secretary was instructed to inquire from the Central Bureau, Cairo what is available either in Arabic or in English, and what is being used to meet this need in the Arabic field. Further, the Committee requested L. Bevan Jones and J. A. Subhan to collaborate in the preparation of a suitable basic MS. in English for use in India, in case nothing suitable is found elsewhere.

A Survey of Urdu Literature on the basis of the Minimum Programme as sent out from Cairo was committed to the Secretary, so that we might discover from such a classification in what particulars our supply is adequate, faulty or insufficient, with a view to improving our position in this matter.

Recommendations to the N.C.C. It was decided after much careful consideration that the following suggestions *re* the forming of the C.L.M.C., and its relation to the Moslem Work Committee of the N.C.C. be more clearly defined in accordance therewith :

- (1) That the C.L.M.C. shall be (as now) the Executive Committee of the Moslem Work Committee.
- (2) That the C.L.M.C. shall be constituted on the following lines suited to meet all interests, one representing each of the following :—
 1. Part-time Sec'y of N.C.C. for Moslem Work (Convener)
 2. Publishing interests—
 3. Woman's work—
 4. Editorial work—
 5. From Bengal—
 6. From other areas in the following order of rotation :
 - (a) W. India—
 - (b) S. India—
 - (c) Frontier including Sindh and Kashmir—

- (3) That in addition to the six above specified, four more be added to complete the membership of the Moslem Work Committee of the N.C.C.

Applications for Grants were received from the following areas: Gujarati, Pushtu, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Others were expected from Oriya and Malayalam, but they did not arrive. Owing to the special restrictive rules which the C.L.M.C. has been compelled to frame to be just and equitable to all, some of the applications could not be approved, but this does not in the least indicate a lack of sympathy on the part of the committee; and only means that special care must be exercised by the language area literature committees in sending up their applications. The printed rules on the back of the application forms which are being prepared will make matters both simple and regular for the whole field which we are so anxious to serve equitably and well.

The following applications were approved :

		Rs.
1.	<i>Gujarati.</i> Khutbas: "The Place of Mary" .. 26	
	"The Sinless Intercessor" ... 26	
2.	<i>Tamil.</i> How the Death of Christ differs from that of Prophets, Patriots and Martyrs, J. J. Lucas .. 103	
	Islam 120	
3.	<i>Telugu.</i> Muhammadanism, A. M. Boggs ... 173	
4.	<i>Urdu.</i> (1) The Wonderful Pathway ... 125	
	(2) The Fortune-Teller and Necklace ... 125	
	(3) The Stream and its Source ... 125	
	(4) The Field of Good Intentions ... 125	
	(5) The Robe of Al-Rashid ... 175	
	(6) Two Ways in the Qur'an ... 175	
	(7) The Blood Feud of al-Hanousch ... 175	
	(8) Aunt Aisha's Jesamine ... 75	
	(9) The Search for the Strongest ... 100	
	(10) A Desert Sandstorm ... 77	
	(11) The Names of Christ ... 77	
	(12) The Character of Christ (Isa ki Sirat) ... 137	
	(13) Minar-ul-Haqq (The Beacon of Truth) ... 278	

Total Rs. 1,769

Summary of Applications approved.

2 Gujarati	...	...	Rs. 52
2 Tamil	...	...	223
1 Telugu	...	...	173
13 Urdu	...	...	1,769
			Rs. 2,217

The applications for Pushtu Literature were provisionally approved, subject to certain required modifications.

The meeting adjourned with an earnest season of prayer for God's guidance and blessing on all the literature, literature agencies, and language areas which minister to the spiritual needs of the 70,000,000 Moslems of this country.

MURRAY T. TITUS,
Secretary.

Friends of Calcutta Muslims

QE have heard of the great interest in the Muslim centering about the Bishop's College group, and others specifically concerned. The following extract from a letter written to Mr. Bevan Jones by the Rev. H. Hector Chick will explain something of the aims and ideals of the group to our readers:

"You will have already been made aware of the existence in Calcutta of the 'Friends of Muslims' and the paper issued by them entitled 'Muslim Suhrid.' It is a fairly active group although the numbers are quite small. There is a meeting once a month, the objects of which are:—

1. *Study.* Each member should be ready to read a book on Islam and give its gist at a monthly meeting to be followed by discussion. The library of Bishop's College is open to members to borrow books.
2. *Prayer.* Corporate and individual prayer for Muslims.
3. *Visits* to mosques, printing presses and book shops, hostels and other places of interest.
4. *A Bengali Paper.* A monthly paper was to be prepared and circulated, to be devoted to the interests of Muslim converts in Bengal.

"The inaugural meeting was held in March and since then meetings have been held regularly. One month the group discussed a questionnaire a copy of which I enclose.

"We are now commencing on a survey of Islam in Calcutta and you will find enclosed a preliminary sheet for the purpose.

"After a consideration of the question of 'Muhammadan servants in Calcutta' a letter is to be drafted which may be put into the hands of Memsahabs for their guidance. It covers the following points.

For Servants who are Literate.

1. Give Gospel of Matthew in Urdu, Hindi, Bengali.
2. Draw attention to the Christian Book and Tract Society, from whom can be obtained such books as:—
The Best Friend,
Khush Kechcha.
Sweet First Fruits.
Brother Lawrence.
Pilgrims Progress.
3. Give address of Christian Padres and Helpers who would be willing to give instruction to servants where asked for.

For Servants who are Illiterate.

"This was an exceedingly difficult question, but we would try to secure the services of a man suitable for this work.

"The meetings that have been held every month have been very useful and promise well for the future. The President of the 'Friends of Muslims' is Rev. G. Keable of Bishop's College, and I am the Secretary."

The December meeting was addressed by Mr. L. Bevan Jones. We are sure that any further information that may be desired would willingly be given by Mr. Chick, of the Wesleyan Mission, Barrackpore, or by Mr. Keable of Bishop's College, Calcutta.

The following is the Preliminary Sheet of a Muslim Survey of Calcutta, mentioned in Mr. Chick's Letter:—

A. Muslim Activities.

1. Information about and addresses of:—

- (a) Mosques, (b) Shrines, (c) Karbalas, (d) Cemeteries, (e) Centres Dervish Orders, (f) Newspapers, (g) Printing Presses, (h) Schools, (i) College Hostels, (j) Libraries, (k) Mecca Pilgrims, (l) Muslim Areas, (m) Sects and their numbers.

2. Photographs of:—

- (a) All the above, (b) Types of Muslims, (c) Faqirs, (d) Weddings, (e) Funerals, (f) Circumcision Ceremony, (g) Festival Scenes, (h) Friday Sermon, (i) Imambara.

B. Christian Activities.

- (a) Reading Rooms, (b) Schools with majority Muslim Scholars. (c) Zenana Visiting, (d) Names and addresses of Christian Workers.

The Questionnaire mentioned in the above letter follows:—

A. Christian Worship.

1. Ought Christian Churches to be open all day for private prayer as mosques are?
2. Ought there to be at least two short services, morning and evening, daily in all Churches?
3. How far do pews and hassocks etc., interfere with devotion?
4. Ought we to encourage bhajans and vernacular musical instruments? If so, how?

B. Prayer.

1. How far ought padres to be urged to give courses of instruction on prayer?
2. Ought we to encourage Prayer groups? If so, how?
3. What literature is there in Hindi, Urdu and Bengali on this subject?

C. Social Distinctions.

1. How can the Christian worker best break down the distinctions between Hindu and Muslim converts?
2. How can we best bring about the formation of groups for Bible and missionary study and for social intercourse in big centres of Muslim influence?
3. How can we enlarge the present group in Calcutta.
4. How can we start and organize a Christian mela e.g., in Calcutta for Indian Christians?

The whole of this paper is to be considered, bearing in mind the needs of Muslim converts.

Ubb and Flow.

DURING the spring a number of incidents occurred—in fact most societies seemed to get their turn in regular sequence; some philosophically reported "Getting our turn now, yours next time"! At Assiut there was considerable difficulty about March. Then again at various places in Palestine, *e. g.*, Nablus in particular, certain plans seem to have been rather cleverly laid to entrap workers into giving tracts "at the special request of the people"; immediately after which a small mob of Moslems would appear from nowhere and make emphatic protests against the aforesaid tracts having been given to their town, and that without leaving time to read the aforesaid tracts to see if they contained anything to which they objected.

Ultimately things got so bad and our colporteur's life was in such danger, that we arranged to withdraw him from that district altogether, and perhaps the most serious incident was the attack upon two Nile Mission Press workers in Transjordan.

A raging campaign was now being carried on by the Palestine press, particularly by one paper. Some societies were attacked by name, yet again some suffered material damage. The effect upon the Nile Mission Press was such that the owner of our depot near Damascus Gate was strictly forbidden to renew the lease. As time was passing we could wait no longer, but humanly speaking all hope of renewing at Damascus Gate was given up—unless a miracle occurred. But see the continuation of the story lower down!

There is generally an aftermath; as in China, so in the Near East. After the Boxer rebellion, a gathering in of spiritual fruit; after the Near East agitation we shall see a spirit of enquiry. Even by June things had taken a slight turn for the better. On the 26th of that month I left for Palestine to cheer up Mr. Ibrahim Jameel, our book depot keeper, and incidentally to give my wife a little experience of Palestine which she had not seen for 19 years. For once it seemed well to leave the tracts at home for we had been so solemnly warned by the authorities that the slightest indiscretion might bring the house about our heads. But on reaching the Suez Canal at Kantara and on chatting with a tourist agent there, his assistant, a Moslem, asked why I was not distributing tracts this time, and said he particularly wanted some. I took his name and address which he very freely gave me, and posted to him from Jerusalem. Even that little incident is an indication of the turn of the tide.

On arrival at the Holy City I found all our books moved back into the Book-shop at Damascus Gate, and thus was celebrated a most remarkable intervention of God's providence. (Damascus Gate as most of our readers know is one of the most historic sites of the Holy City, and further, it is the very centre of the Arabic-speaking population).

We had moved the books out as we had understood that it was hopeless to make an arrangement with the Moslem owner as the lease was to expire on the 20th June. Then the unexpected occurred—one of the neighbours, apparently prompted from the owner's side, came and offered to interview him and to act as intermediary in general. To cut a long story short, we hold now the signed lease, registered for one year more, and not only so, but the owner reduced the rent six pounds a year, and then drew up the agreement in Palestinian pounds, whereas last year it was in Egyptian pounds. As the difference between the two is 6d in the pound,

that saves us two pounds more. Everyone seems so surprised to find that the thing that was impossible all at once became possible!

Looking back at the situation in Palestine in general, one would say that the tide is beginning to turn; the only thing is that you cannot tell that the tide is turning at the exact minute that it does turn, you can only see by results later on. But the tide is on the turn, let us take a longer view.

“ What though the tried waves vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent—flooding in—the Main ”

Arthur T. Upson.

Abridged from “ News from the Area.”

Pray

PRAY for the new school of Islamic Studies; for its staff; and especially for the Rev. L. Bevan Jones, as he enters on his duties as Principal of this strategic venture.

PRAY that God may bless to His use the printed page; that those who determine the means and content of the literature for Muslims may have special guidance for the task; that those who distribute may be unhampered in their efforts; that those who read may be touched with the very Spirit of God.

PRAY for the Friends of Muslims in Calcutta, that their efforts may bear much fruit, and other groups may spring up to do as they are doing.

PRAY that 1929 may see glorious victories in the evangelization of the Muslim.

NEW MEMBER

Rev. H. H. Chick, Wesleyan Mission, Barrackpore, Bengal.

Any notification of change of address, names of new members or remittance of subscription, etc., should be sent to the Superintendent, Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, India, and *not* to the Secretary of the League. The annual subscription to the League is Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s. od.).

Matters of interest to members of the League, items of news and requests for prayer should be sent (if possible early in the month) to the Hony. Secretary :—

Rev. M. S. Pitt,
*Methodist Theological College,
Jubbulpore, C. P., India.*

