

News and Notes.

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

Series IX.

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Jan. 1st = 21st Rabi'ul-Sani (4th mo.)

Jan. 11th = 1st Jumada'l-Ula, 1339, A.H.

New Year Messages

from Our President and Others.

ANOTHER year of unrest in the Muslim world has gone by. Many things have occurred to give us anxiety and the call to prayer; many prayers have been answered. Perhaps few have known the dangers which have impended, but the Lord reigneth and has intervened to save.

The first thought which arises with the birth of the New Year is one of profound thanksgiving. Many dangers have passed and many new opportunities have opened up before the missionaries to Muslims. Many Muslims are inquiring the way of Life in Jesus Christ. His unique Personality is drawing many to Himself. The great issue is summed up in the words "*Muhammad* or *Jesus Christ*."

Many Muslims are weary of the cold, hard, lifeless dogmas of Islam. The touch of Jesus Christ brings to them sympathy and hope. He speaks to them of atonement, of love and reconciliation, of forgiveness of Sin and Eternal Life.

Shall we not therefore go forth with confidence to tell the Muslim people, students in colleges, women in the zanana, boys and girls, the simple story of Christ the Saviour of sinners? He is with us and by His Spirit in us, is drawing them to Himself.

A young man of sixteen, who has been a believer for some time, came to see me about a month since. He was a student in a Muslim school in a native State, placed there to keep under Muslim influence. I urged him to remain in school and to confess his faith before his father and relatives and not to leave them until they drove him out. The boy returned to his school. A few days since his father came to me to talk about his son. "He is my only son. I have done everything I could to persuade him to give up his idea of becoming a Christian. I have ridiculed him, scolded him, beaten him and threatened

him; but all in vain. He now says, that if I will not make him a Christian he will run away from me." After some conversation I found he had determined to commit him to my care. The next day the father brought his boy and committed him to my care. He also became interested in the Gospel and took with him three books; a New Testament in Urdu, Dr. Köelle's 'Food for reflection,' and Dr. Potter's 'Roots and Branches.' The boy is happy in his school life and calls me father and Mrs. Wherry mother. This is but a feather to show the way the wind is blowing. And is not the Wind, the Spirit of God?

May God greatly bless every member of the M.M.L. and with greetings, I am yours in the Service,

E. M. WHERRY.

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Mr. Ahmad Shah, M.R.A.S. of Cawnpore, sends this message to the members of the League;—

The present situation in India demands that the missionary to Moslems should endeavour to predispose his hearers in favour of his message, by satisfying them, in his own behaviour, that it deserves the title of good news; that he himself has found it the antidote of care, as well as righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, confirming the Apostle's assurance that it has the promise of this life, as well as of that which is to come. The Moslem should be urged to understand that the Author and Finisher of our faith is at once,

"The sinner's friend and sin's eternal foe."

AHMAD SHAH.

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Mr. Takle of Brahmanbaria, East Bengal, sends us this message:—

One of the priceless possessions of the Christian Church is the truth that our divine Lord is the *living, interceding* Saviour. To this we should cling alway. It is a glad experience to know this truth. It adds peace to joy and strength to strength.

I believe that this truth has done more than any other in our Faith to suggest to crowds of Muhammadans, and convince not a few, that there is a power in Christianity that Islam lacks. It is a truth that makes a joyous fellowship with Christ possible, and through Him with the Father, and ensures a sense of brotherhood among all believers.

It is such a truth that can bring vitality and reality to all our preaching and praying.

J. TAKLE.

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Mr. Goldsack, of Jessore, East Bengal, reminds us of the power of the printed page:—

The present embitterment of Muslims the world over, due to the political disintegration of Islam and the humiliation of its Khalif,

seems to constitute a call to a fuller emphasis being placed on the use of the printed page in Muslim evangelization. Not unoften, in these days especially, the personal appeal antagonises and calls forth a heated reply, whereas the same appeal made through the printed tract or booklet will often cause the reader to calmly ponder its claims.

We would do well, I believe, during the coming year, to make a special effort to secure a wide dissemination of the Bible and general Christian literature amongst the Muslims of our respective fields. Let the year 1921 break all records for the distribution of literature; and let us follow with our united prayers the silent messengers as they enter the homes of the people.

WILLIAM GOLDSACK.

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Miss Davidson of Peshawar calls us to a more expectant faith.

"The LORD hath done great things."

"The LORD will do great things." Luke 11: 9-10.

"Say not ye, there are yet...months, and then cometh harvest?" True, we do say it, and the disheartened one, whose faith is failing, tries to be content with plodding on, on stoney ground, sowing, and seeing no results. But JESUS says, "Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look.....already.....harvest."

The eye of faith sees hope in the "distress of nations, with perplexity," and the failing of men's hearts; and expectant love meets the seeking, ready souls.

May the Master thrust us, this year, out into the whitened fields, to reap the golden harvest, to our rejoicing, and to the praise of His glorious Name. Matt. 9: 28-29.—Amen.

F. M. DAVIDSON.

The President-Elect.

LAST month we announced that in view of the anticipated departure on furlough of Dr. Wherry, we were seeking some one to succeed him as President of the League. We have great pleasure in announcing that your Committee have unanimously elected Canon M. G. Goldsmith of Royapettah, Madras. Rev. J. Takle of Brahmanbaria, East Bengal, has been also unanimously elected to be Vice-President.

The members of Committee are :—

Bengal.—Miss J. Taylor, Rev. W. Goldsack, Rev. E. T. Butler.*

Panjab.—Miss Davidson, Dr. Griswold, Prof. R. Sirajuddin.

Madras.—Miss Potter,* Canon Sell.

W. India and Hyderabad.—Miss Tullock,* Rev. Lane-Smith, Dr. H. R. Scott, Rev. G. E. Brown.

U. Provinces.—Rev. Ahmad Shah.

Other Lands.—Miss Ledward* (Ceylon), Rev. J. Smith* (Burmah), Rev. J. Cantine (Persian Gulf), Rev. F. H. Rhodes* (China), Dr. Zwemer (Egypt), and Rev. Weitbrecht Stanton (London).

* on furlough.

National Missionary Council of India.

Standing Committee on

WORK AMONG MOSLEMS.

AS most members of the League already know, the National Missionary Council of India was asked in 1918 to appoint a Sub-Committee on work among Moslems. We have hitherto heard little of the transactions of this Standing Committee, we are therefore glad to be able to publish in this number the report for 1920 read by the Convener of the Sub-Committee at the recent gathering of the N. M. C. in Calcutta.

REPORT FOR 1920.

Owing to the pre-occupation of the Convener with other things the Committee on Work among Moslems has not been able to do any real work. This of course, does not in any way indicate that there was no work to be done. A line of work was suggested by the last year's Committee which should have been followed up this year. The importance of the work among Moslems has not become less but greater owing to the most remarkable changes in the Moslem world to-day. Though we cannot this year give any report of work done, we may emphasize the great importance of the work and suggest to the future Convener and Committee what the Council would require them to do in the coming year.

I. The Committee would first invite the attention of the Council to the discussion on the subject of the proscription of Dr. Zwemer's book "Islam," introduced at the Lahore Session of the Council last year by Rev. W. Carey, and the Resolution passed thereon, viz., that the Executive Committee in consultation with our Committee take action in the matter during the following year. The question was referred to the Members of this Committee at the suggestion of the Executive Committee. The Members of the Committee on Work among Moslems unanimously agree that the question of making a representation to the Government with regard to Dr. Zwemer's book should be dropped and no further action taken.

II. The report of the Committee for the last year was sent to all the Members and they were asked to suggest ways in which the Resolutions passed at the Meeting of the N. M. C. last year might be carried into effect. The following suggestions have been made :—

(1) One Missionary Member writes :

- (a) One thing appears to me practical and urgent. That is, that every mission that has suitable men or women among its agents should set apart some of them as Evangelists to the Moslems who might be relieved of all other offices and duties and devote themselves to this work whether by writing or speaking. In past years the lack of men and means has kept some specially gifted agents tied to Stations and Institutions who could otherwise have powerfully influenced Muhammadans. Plans for a Forward Movement in any Mission should include the appointment of such special missionaries who, whether they be Indian or European, should be given time for special study and free scope to use all their powers for evangelizing the Moslem population. Those who are specially gifted speakers should become Inter-Mission and be free to follow the call of the Spirit in wider fields than the limits of their own church organization.
- (b) I suggest that the Provincial Councils be asked after due inquiry to return to this Committee the names of such specially appointed Evangelists with a view to facilitate the arranging of Conventions and extended tours.

(2) It is being felt in several parts of the country that direct Evangelistic work among educated Moslems has of late years been greatly neglected. To mention one instance from the Punjab : a very large number of most capable and experienced Ministers of the Gospel in the C.M.S. there are converts from Islam. Most of them are advanced in age and some have passed on to their eternal rest, but no fresh converts of such type as could take their places are forthcoming. All members are agreed that the present opportunity for advance in Evangelistic effort to convert educated Moslems and leaders is unique. A Member from Bengal writes, "Our work among educated Moslems is practically nil." He strongly advocates an Evangelistic monthly paper similar to the Epiphany to be published for Moslems only. He suggests applying to the Literature Committee of the N.M.C. for financial help. Another member emphasizes the need of special training of missionaries for work among Moslems. He says "Our Mission, at least, has but very few men who in their college training had a preparation which fitted them for meeting the Moslems with an intelligent knowledge of Islam."

(3) As regards Inter-Mission and Inter-Provincial Evangelistic work the Members suggest that the Committee make arrangements by appealing to Missions through the Provincial Representative Councils. One member mentions the advisability of securing speakers like Rev. E. Stanley Jones and others who have made a speciality of addressing educated Moslems, as one method of united work.

(4) On the subject of the preparation and co-ordination and revision of Literature for Moslems, many helpful suggestions have been made by the Members. More than one Member urge the need of a "Life of Jesus" for simple Moslem readers as drawn up in the "Master Man," published by the Y.M.C.A. A translation of Dr.

Wherry's Comprehensive Commentary on the Koran has also been suggested. It is also pointed out that the Committee should, after examination of Literature for Moslems already existing in English, recommend to the Literature Committee of the N.M.C. what books in its opinion ought to be translated in the various vernaculars used by Moslems in India.

The importance of attending to Literature for the Moslems in India becomes greater when we remember that the Moslem Work sub-committee of the China Continuation Committee is busy translating some of the books written for Moslems in India.

(5) Coming to the subject of a Union Institution for Training Workers among Moslems it is agreed that it is difficult to arrange for such an Institution at present but several members are of opinion that the Theological and Training Schools and Colleges be asked to make arrangements for special training of men for work among Moslems.

(6) Two experienced Missionaries emphasise the importance of every worker among Moslems becoming a member of the "Missionaries to Moslems League," which took the initiative in getting the sub-committee for work among Moslems formed by the National Missionary Council. This League has a monthly bulletin of its own which is issued by the Hon. Secy. the Rev. L. Bevan Jones of Dacca, Bengal. One Member urges upon all missionaries to Moslems the importance of subscribing for the "Moslem World," a quarterly Magazine edited by Dr. Zwemer and published from 156, Fifth Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

(7) We were glad to learn from the report of the United Provinces Representative Council that they have realized the importance of work among Moslems and by their own initiative have appointed a Committee for Work among Moslems of which Rev. M. T. Titus is the Convener. We suggest to the future Committee to correspond with the Bengal and the Punjab Representative Councils of Missions and any other Provincial Councils in whose area there is considerable work being done or needs to be done among Moslems, to appoint similar committees in their Provinces.

The following resolutions were agreed to :—

- I. That this Council urge upon Missions through the various Provincial Councils, the great desirability in this new era of setting apart Workers, both Indian and Foreign, who are by their taste and training specially fitted for Work among Moslems, to do direct Evangelistic work for winning educated Moslems and Moslem leaders.
- II. That this Council calls the attention of those Provincial Councils in whose area there is considerable work being done or needing to be done among Moslems, to the desirability of appointing Provincial Committees for Work among Moslems.
- III. That this Council through the various Provincial Councils brings the attention of all Missionary workers among Moslems to 'The Missionaries to Moslems League,' which aims to unite

all workers among Moslems in prayer and counsel, and further commends to them the "Moslem World," a quarterly Magazine edited by Dr. Zwemer.

NAMES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORK AMONG MOSLEMS
FOR 1921.

1. Rev. Dr. J. C. R. Ewing, C.I.E., Lahore.
2. Miss M. Rose Greenfield, Sangla Hill, Punjab.
3. Canon D. L. Joshi, Girgaum, Bombay.
4. Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Baptist Mission, Dacca, Bengal.
5. Rev. W. Goldsack, Baptist Mission, Jessore, Bengal.
6. Prof. R. Siraj-ud-Din (Convener), Warris Road, Lahore.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

1. Rev. Dr. E. M. Wherry, Ludhiana.
2. Rev. J. Waiz Lal, Baptist Mission, Delhi.
3. Rev. H. J. Lane Smith, Girgaum, Bombay.
4. Rev. Ahmad Shah, S. P. G. Mission, Cawnpore.
5. Rev. J. Takle, Brahmanbaria, Tipperah.
6. Rev. Canon Sell, C. M. S., Madras.

Our Letter File.

A MEMBER now in England writes:—'After twenty-five years of service with the C.E.Z.M.S. for the Muslim women and girls of Mysore, S. India, I have found it advisable to retire from foreign service and do what I can at home; but I can never forget the people I have worked amongst or the great need of the Muhammadan world, and I wish to continue a member of the League and hope to further the cause by prayer and by deputation work.'

With best wishes for the New Year for the League work and for 'News and Notes,' and for all your work.'

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Another member from Central India writes as follows:—'The work among the Muhammadan women for which I am responsible is very much hindered for lack of Indian workers. It is so difficult to find just the right kind of women to send into the zenanas. Yet the homes are open to us, and we have tremendous opportunities of teaching the women about Christ, and constantly I have to refuse invitations to enter new homes because I have no teachers to send. In many homes the women listen gladly and some seem 'almost persuaded,' and I think would accept Christ were it not so difficult for them afterwards.'

For Praise and Prayer.

Let us praise Almighty God for all the mercies vouchsafed to us in the past year.

Let us pray that He may grant to each of us a greater faith and more definite reliance upon Him during this year.

Let us pray that He may thrust forth more labourers, Indian and Foreign, into these whitened fields.

Let us pray for God's guidance and blessing to rest on the members of the Committee for work among Moslems.

The annual subscription to the League is now only Rs. 2-0-0. Let us each try to secure one new member during 1921. 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.

