

CARY, MAUDE

Maude Cary was a pioneer missionary to Morocco from 1901 till 1952. She was born in Kansas on Nov. 19, 1878, to Jedediah and Sarah Cary, whose hospitality to visiting missionaries instilled in their daughter a passion for overseas mission work. At 18 years of age, she enrolled at the Gospel Missionary Union Bible Institute in Kansas City, Missouri to be trained for missionary service.

Missionary Work

On Nov. 2, 1901, Cary and five coworkers boarded the steamship *Aller* for the ten-day journey to Morocco. The new recruits established themselves in the city of Fez to begin learning Arabic. Cary was a natural language learner and excelled at her studies.

Cary faced many obstacles as a new missionary. She was criticized by some within her mission agency for not maintaining a serious disposition, which almost resulted in her being sent home. Cary also suffered from many physical ailments, including severe head and backaches.

Cary became engaged to a fellow missionary, George Reed, but for reasons that are not entirely known they never married.

Ministry in Morocco

Moroccans were very resistant to the new religion being taught by the missionaries and it was decades before Cary and her team saw a single convert.

The missionaries worked hard, offering bible classes and schooling to children, providing medical care to the sick and visiting the people. The children called her "Miss Terri," probably a nickname derived from "Cary," but soon the moniker became a synonym for any female missionary serving in the region.

Remarkably, it was not until after 23 years of service in Morocco, at the age of 46 that Cary took her first furlough back to the United States to care for her ailing parents.

When World War II created difficulties for missionaries in North Africa, nearly all the missionaries were evacuated. Cary and three other single women remained behind struggling to continue because of food rationing and a shortage of supplies. For six years (1939-1945), the country was closed to new missionaries but the four women faithfully kept the Gospel witness alive.

Significant Contribution to Christianity in the United States

In 1951, Cary became so ill that she was flown back to the United States for treatment. While she was gone, the Bible institute that she worked hard to help establish in the Moroccan city of Khemisset was dedicated on Jan. 13, 1952.

In October 1952, Cary returned to Morocco for the last time. After three more years of ministry, she retired. On June 9, 1955, she reluctantly left her adopted home of Morocco.

Her work among the Moroccan people encouraged many men and women to enter missionary service. She prayed faithfully for more workers to come to the field, specifically for ten men to serve the Moroccan people. For almost 20 years, there were never fewer than ten missionary men working in the country.

Maude Cary died on July 15, 1967 at 88 years of age.

References and Resources

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