

# THE INDIA ALLIANCE PRAYER BELL

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No. 4.

"Ye also helping together on our behalf by your supplications". 2 Cor. 1: 11.

"With thanksgiving" we would send forth our little praise and prayer leaflet with the object of arousing our faithful homeland friends to more intelligent, prevailing prayer for us and the work in which "we are labourers together with God".

For the benefit of our new readers a word concerning the missionary's annual schedule might be helpful. With annual district conferences, missionary convention, days of prayer and committee meetings sandwiched between, the Indian year automatically divides itself into three seasons. The cold season from November to March makes tent life possible and thus permits extensive itinerations amongst the hundreds of heathen villages. Beginning of May emphasizes the hot season when the majority of missionaries are obliged to "escape to the mountain". The rainy season which lasts with variations from the middle of June until September makes clay roads in many of our districts impassable, so Bible study classes and examinations for our Indian pastors and evangelists are fitted into this time.

News from touring parties indicates a growing dissatisfaction with Hinduism, coupled with a somewhat hazy, handicapped yearning after the Truth. Especially amongst the higher and educated castes we find an intelligent turning from idols which must ultimately result in a turning "to serve the living and true God".

Calls for the message of salvation through Christ have come from several high-class Mohammedan homes in the Jalgaon district where hitherto the name of Jesus

was hated and despised. To hear the precious Name breathed by Mohammedan lips is cause for humble thanksgiving to God. Praise God for the few who have confessed their belief that Jesus is the only way to God. In the same district several village school masters have forbidden the purchase or acceptance of Gospel portions or tracts. They declare the children will lose their aptitude for study and disease and misfortune will fall upon them if anything pertaining to the Christian religion is found in their homes. Pray that our Omnipotent God will offset the devices of Satan and bless to fruition the seeds of Truth sown in these young minds.

During touring season two self-supported, volunteer bands from the Ahmedabad church left their several occupations for a couple of weeks or so and participated in the joy of proclaiming Christ to those who are still in heathen darkness. Pray with us that this sense of responsibility and co-operation in the work might deepen and spread in all our Christian communities.

Praise God for the growth in the grace of liberality evident in our eight Mehmedabad churches. On the last day of their district conference they contributed forty dollars towards the expenses of the Conference and figures show that last year they sent eighty-three dollars to the Bible Society besides twenty-five dollars paid into their district fund to be used for evangelistic work within the district or towards the completion of church buildings.

An up-to-date Ford grows and bumps through the sand and over the uneven plain of the Virangam district where Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have been stationed as God's messengers. Rejoice with us in His provision for this big district and continue to pray that soon all available territory might soon be Forded with the Gospel. People from far-off Sind, Cutch, Radhanpur and Kathiawar are busy plying their cotton trade in Virangam at this season. Pray that the Old, Old Story given to them in word and print might bring forth fruit to His glory.

"Sound of abundance of rain" comes from our Boarding Schools where God's Spirit has been working in convicting and converting power for several months past. At the close of a Scriptural object lesson based

on Luke 18: 16 seventeen Dholka boys sought and found Christ as their Saviour. Later half a dozen of the older boys expressed their desire to be baptized. The Santa Barbara boys have organized a Home Missionary Band which they support by prayer, fasting and killing rats at half a cent per head! At an enquiry meeting which lasted until midnight thirty girls in Khamgaon Boarding School, accepted Christ as their Saviour and are joyously anticipating following Him in baptism. Kaira School too, has been the scene of many spiritual battles fought and won through the merits of our blessed Saviour. We thank God for the possibilities of these young lives sheltered from the evil influences of heathen villages, and for their growth in grace we bespeak your prayers.

A change of hands in several of our stations has been made imperative by the going on furlough of our experienced, senior missionaries Rev. and Mrs. A. I. Garrison and Misses Beardslee, Conger and Williams. Pray for the 'young seniors' shouldering new responsibilities, as well as for the language students.

Upon her return from furlough Miss Wells was again entrusted with the charge of Kaira Boarding School and Widows' Home where she served so efficiently and unselfishly for about thirty years. In order to make the few remaining widows and non-marriageable girls self-supporting bed-tape weaving has been introduced. Pray that this enterprise might be both a financial and spiritual success.

Rev. and Mrs. K. D. Garrison have finished another term of service and hope to sail for the homeland early in May. For the past two and a half years Mr. Garrison has served faithfully as Mission Chairman and we trust he will enjoy a foretaste of the reward for his labours in a pleasant and profitable furlough.

With deep gratitude to God we welcome Rev. and Mrs. Moyser back to India. With a few others they represent the 'old school' on the field and their ministry is much appreciated by both Indian and European. Mr. Moyser will resume his duties as Chairman and will live at Akola as heretofore. Back his labours with believing prayers.

Pray for the Nargaon Bible Training School which will open the last of June with Mr. Smith in charge. The junior students need to be fortified against the allurements of worldly pursuits. Pray that the Holy Spirit Himself may prepare their minds and hearts for the ministry of the Gospel.

Owing to the insufficiency of the annual rains the water in some of our wells is very low. Pray that the remaining 'cruse' might not diminish until the monsoon breaks.

Mrs. Moroni was severely burned in January as the result of an accident with a repaired Primus Stove. For over three months she was confined to bed in an almost helpless condition. The sloughing off of the burned skin hindered the healing process but God has wonderfully sustained the sufferer and now improvement is noticeable. We are deeply grateful to God Who did not permit the flames to reach her face and for His grace manifested to both Mr. and Mrs. Moroni in their trial. Pray that the healing may be speedy and complete.

Another precious, devoted life has left us and quietly slipped into the presence of our beloved Lord. After two weeks of fever on March 24th it pleased the Master to summon Miss Doderlein to higher service. During the past year Miss Doderlein's young life had blossomed into rare spiritual fragrance and fruitfulness and while we mourn her loss we praise God for His measure of grace toward her and would reiterate her deathbed desire "He must have all the glory". Pray for her bereaved relatives and friends. Only God can comfort them in their unexpected loss.

Praise God for the good measure of health which the missionaries enjoy these hot, trying days. Our babies too with their plump little bodies and bright faces re-echo "Praise God".

"Kept by Thy power  
Upon the foreign shore;  
By Thy strong tower  
We're safe for evermore.  
Help us to strive,  
Rich souls to gather in,  
Snatch them alive  
From out the paths of sin."