

THE INDIA ALLIANCE.

“For we are labourers together with God.”

1 Cor. 3: 9.



“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Phil. 4: 6.

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FAREWELL.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”

Just a few words of greeting before leaving dear, old India—the land where I have spent some thirty-two odd years of my life—the land of great need and great opportunities.

From the bottom of my heart I do praise God for the privilege of serving Him here during the last four years, and of ministering the precious gospel to these darkened souls. Not one day of sickness has hindered me from being in the ‘harness’ all this time. Praise His name! God has wonderfully sustained me and answered the many prayers which have ascended to the throne of grace on my behalf. With the prospect of soon being united with the loved ones in the homeland, there is still a strong pull from this land with its teeming millions in darkness, superstition and dire need of the ‘good tidings’ of Him Who can set them free.

The many verbal and written expressions of appreciation of my humble ministry received during the last few days from both fellow Missionaries and Indian brethren, have greatly cheered my heart. May we all seek His approbation. Let us carry on for yet a little while. Let us 'occupy' until He comes. It won't be long. Hallelujah!

P. HAGBERG.

MUKTI.

"Thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise."

Surely our Pandita Ramabai heard the command of God when she named her Mission Mukti, i. e., Salvation. How much of this prophetic promise was actually fulfilled to her, the Lord only knows. He gave her the vision of what might be fulfilled by those who are absolutely His, and we are sure that this is what Consecration meant to her.

The past few months have brought to our Krupa Sadan (Rescue Home) an unusual number of broken lives whose only hope of restoration is in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are sorry to relate that nearly all of these have come from Christian communities. This fact should make us think. Perhaps there is something lacking in our training or our preaching when so many of our people yield to temptation. Perhaps too, there are some man-made Christians instead of God-made ones. We cannot say. Some of these have been more sinned against than sinning, while others have deliberately departed from the path of virtue. Nothing but the mighty, convicting power of the Holy Ghost can transform these lives. They are still young, mostly under twenty. Do pray for them, and for us that we may be wise and strong in winning them to the Saviour.

We also want to interest our readers in our head Matrons' meeting at six p. m. every Monday. At this

time twenty of the Matrons, heads of compounds and small departments, meet with us for a time of real Bible study and prayer. We are seeking to make this the 'power-house' through which we can touch every individual in the place. Some of these Matrons have been in Mukti for thirty years, but are still useful women. Their experiences may have gone to seed somewhat, but we ask your prayers for them that they may not rest on past blessings, but be re-filled with the Spirit and still 'bring forth fruit in old age.' For the younger ones also we ask prayer, that they may so learn the fear of God that they may be able to instil His fear into the children under their care and so become real leaders.

EUNICE WELLS.

HAPPENINGS IN MEHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

A critical situation has arisen at the village of Mahij. Our Christian community there put their children into the Local Board School, for which the law makes provision. The moment the children entered, the caste children numbering about eighty, got up and left the school room. (This is the result of Christians being considered out-castes by orthodox Hindus). They have stayed away from the school for five months and only the six Christian children attend. Consequently, the Government has withdrawn all the teachers, excepting one, and has threatened to close the school altogether, unless more children attend. All manner of schemes are being used to persuade the Christians to withdraw their children. Two stacks of cow feed were burned, the stones around a well were stolen, and threatening letters with kerosene-soaked rags and matches tied to them were hung up by the Christians' houses. All buying and selling and money-lending has been discontinued. Labourers are forbidden to work for the Christians, and not even the shepherds are permitted to graze their

cattle and goats. All land rented to them, some of which they have been cultivating for the last fifteen years, has been taken from them. Their lives and crops have been endangered. Lying letters have been published about the Christians and the Missionary. The pressure is severe, and now-a-days, with the high feeling against a foreign government and a large number of Indian officers, (here all concerned are such) it is extremely difficult to get the officials to take an aggressive part in a settlement. The Christians have been very courageous and patient. They cannot bear much damage, since they are mostly poor to begin with. Some of the Christians upon whom the most responsibility rests are looking worn and haggard after the oppression of the last few months. They had hoped to put up their new church building this season, but the caste man with whom they had made a contract for bricks has refused to carry out his agreement.

Please pray for these needs, for the young Christians and enquirers, and also for one of our young catechists who has been ill with active tuberculosis.

J. S. RINGENBERG.

REV. RATNAKER DHIVAR.

In the homegoing of our beloved Pastor and brother in the Lord, Rev. Ratnaker Dhivar, we feel that a prince indeed has fallen in Israel. We say this not because he was a man of fine physique nor because he was a great orator, but because he was a good man, who in some measure, possessed the qualities demanded by God in a steward.

Faithfulness characterized this life for God, as well as many other attributes which made him worthy of the title of "Pastor." He was a real shepherd of the little flock and how they loved him ! His loving care for them in their various needs was ever manifest, and when he was conscious of a spiritual dearth or sin in the camp, he became

burdened in prayer and spent many hours, often late into the night, in dealing with the needy ones.

Our brother, like Paul of old, only in less degree, knew what it meant to suffer bonds and imprisonment for Christ's sake. A few years ago in the place where he lived and where he was loved and honoured, he was handcuffed and led through the main street of the town by enemies of the Cross, who no doubt thought they had scored a great victory. In the prison the keepers taunted him by asking, "If your God is so great and good, why did He permit your imprisonment?" To this our brother replied, "You wait and see what my God will do for me. He will not allow you to keep me here." And, sure enough, the next morning an official, who knew Ratnaker, shocked to see him in prison, enquired as to the cause of his arrest, whereupon, he demanded that the prison doors be opened and Ratnaker walked out a free man, thereby proving to the heathen that God does care for and deliver His own.

He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a brother beloved by many members of other Missions as well as our own, and was held in the highest esteem by those who were over him in the Lord.

For many months he had been ailing and after several doctors had failed to diagnose his case, he finally went to the Presbyterian Hospital at Miraj. Here an operation was performed and about a week later our beloved brother quietly passed into the presence of his Lord, where we are sure he received an abundant entrance. He was conscious to the last and just before he passed away he asked for his Bible but was too weak to hold it, so others read it to him. He then asked them to sing, "I'm a pilgrim and I'm a stranger," and after the singing of the hymn, he closed his eyes and quietly fell asleep.

A week later a most impressive memorial service was held here in the Bhusawal church of which he was Pastor. On this occasion three Missionaries and one Indian brother spoke fittingly of his service and labours amongst us.

Pastor Ratnaker came into our Mission twenty-seven years ago and was one of the first four Indian brethren to be ordained. We are praying that his mantle may fall upon someone from among his own people, and that this seed of corn which has fallen into the ground, may spring up and bring forth fruit in a gracious revival for which our deceased Pastor longed and prayed.

Please pray for his widow, two sons and daughter.

KATHERINE P. WILLIAMS.

HOME AGAIN.

How good it seems to be home again and especially when you feel that there is plenty to do. It was with hearts full of praise and gratitude to our Master that we landed in Bombay on January 18. It would be hard for me to write about my first impressions of India because I do not remember them, but one thing that I did remember and still see on every hand, is the need of Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of the men, women and children.

When our train stopped at Bodwad, as we were on our way to Akola, what a surprise awaited us! We were met by the young men from the training school singing songs of welcome. They gave us a very nice reception and everything seemed so much like home.

On going down into the village I saw many familiar faces. Many years ago some of these people had been convinced that their only hope of salvation was through Jesus Christ, yet they lacked the courage to step out and make an open declaration. One old man, whom I thought, must surely have passed on, is still living so I went to his home with Mr. Smith. Tatia is blind now and cannot get about as he used to, yet his face lit up with joy when we called on him, and he joined with us when we sang an old gospel hymn which was a favourite of his. I can

remember when he used to come up to the bungalow and walk through it shouting, "Sahib, Sahib" at the top of his lungs. When my father asked him what he wanted he would invariably ask for the gospel story. I think the seed sown in Tatia's heart fell on fruitful ground though he has never been baptized.

How joyful will be the Home Coming for which we are all working, when we shall be with Him in His glory!

ELMORE EICHER.

SADHU BECOMES A SAINT.

Several years ago two Hindu men decided to take the vows of Sadhus, i. e. 'holy' men. While going from village to village begging, they came to a market near our camp where we had gone to preach and sell books. One of the men suggested that they buy a Scripture portion. The other objected, saying, they did not need the Christians' religion nor their books. After a short parley however they decided to take a Gospel.

The Evangelists moved camp to another place not far from the village where these so-called 'holy' men lived, and found they had read the Scripture portion. They now came to the tent to ask questions and finally obtained a New Testament which they read through. In it they discovered a Story that gripped their hearts and a Saviour that saves from sin. When they took the vows of Sadhus they had expressed a desire to be free from sin, but in their ritual they found neither pardon for sin nor power to overcome. Now the light of their eyes and the joy in their faces bear testimony to the fact that they have found satisfaction in their newly discovered Saviour. The leader of the two is quite intelligent in his understanding of the Scriptures. He is also influential in his community so we are trusting that he will be instrumental in bringing many others to Christ.

BENJAMIN H. HOSTETTER.

POSSIBILITIES OF YOUTH.

I think it was said of an old German professor that every time he met a child he felt like taking off his hat to it because of its enormous latent possibilities for good. It is our pleasure to see boys developing some of these possibilities every day.

The Boarding School and Orphanage at Dholka afford a splendid training home for the children of our Christians and Indian helpers who live in the villages where there are no educational advantages, as well as for the orphans, who, thanks to the generosity of kind friends in the homeland, are privileged to make Dholka their permanent abode.

One of the brightest boys who took the Vernacular Final Examination in April is an orphan. He entered this government examination along with eleven others, most of whom had just completed their seventh standard work without another year of special training. Out of some six hundred and fifty and more candidates he came out eightieth on the list. Along with his hard "double-header" studying last year he gave unstinted help in the hospital when the school was seized with a three-months' spell of fever and dysentery during which time hardly a boy escaped. There are other boys like him, and I have often wondered if they wouldn't become useful to the extent of the prayer invested in their behalf. Many do not have praying mothers or fathers. Will you help to guide a young soul into the Kingdom that it become a power in this dark land for that Kingdom?

AUGUST HELPERS.

BATHING JESUS CHRIST.

It is the daily duty of a devout Hindu to take a glassful of water to the temple and bathe one or more of the idols there. He goes through this routine as religiously as he washes his own face, and his prayers and

devotions would not be complete without this particular ceremony.

While touring in the villages with the Training School students we went into a little village one morning to find an indifferent reception. But after our meeting was over, we got into conversation with a bright-eyed, toothless old man who opened his heart to the truth. He said in the course of the conversation, "I acknowledge my sins and forsake them, and leaving all others, I cling to Jesus Christ." He received with much pleasure a tract for inquirers prepared by Pandita Ramabai, and asked, "If I read this book, sing these hymns, repeat these prayers, forsake my sins and worship Jesus Christ, will He reveal Himself to a true worshipper?" His next question was, "How can I worship Him in spirit and in truth?" When we explained about the matter, he questioned with evident satisfaction, "Then I do not have to throw any water on Him?"

Poor misguided souls, bathing their gods instead of receiving the cleansing touch from the true God. Thank God for one more who has come to Him for "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

RAYMOND H. SMITH.

ITEMS.

Mr. Moyser, our Mission Chairman, spent the last three weeks in August in visiting the seven Alliance stations in Gujarat. At each station he gave several refreshing, stimulating messages to the Missionaries, Indian Evangelists and Christians who were able to attend the meetings. We praise God for the good measure of health and strength which Mr. and Mrs. Moyser enjoy.

Born, at the Irish Presbyterian Hospital, Broach, on August 28, a daughter, Marjorie Henrietta, to Mr. and Mrs. Helfers, Boys' Boarding School, Dholka, Gujarat.

Mosquitoes thrive in the irrigated lime, guava and pomegranate gardens adjoining the Dholka Mission compound; and as a consequence many of our Missionaries' children residing there have suffered not a little from Malaria fever, so will you not pray that this plague may not come nigh the dwelling of this little one?

The following note of praise comes from Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter, Chandur, Berar.--We praise God with full hearts for sparing our David to us. He was very low with diphtheria but God was merciful and has restored him. We are also grateful for the many friends who stood by in prayer and sympathy.

Rev. P. Hagberg, who came to India for the first time in 1893, sails for the homeland on the 12th. inst: where he will join his wife and family from whom he has separated himself, for the work's sake, for the last four years. As we bid our beloved brother God-speed we would follow him with prayer and loving interest as he continues to intercede for India, where God has been pleased to use him in bringing blessing to so many souls.

News has just come that Mr. Fletcher is on his way to India from Australia. Pray for him as he enters another term of service as well as for his children, Gladys and Mack, who are left behind in the homeland.

Miss Krater, another of our senior Missionaries, returning from furlough in U. S. A. is due to arrive in India next month. God has been merciful in restoring our sister to health again and we thank Him for sending her back to us and needy India.

On September 12th Miss Beardslee submitted to a rather serious operation at the American Presbyterian Hospital, Miraj. Pray for her speedy and complete restoration to full health.