

The India Alliance

A Bulletin of the India Mission of the Christian and
Missionary Alliance

JANUARY

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1935

A Happy Reunion

As one means of strengthening the regiment of Christ's soldiers working in India under the Christian and Missionary Alliance banner, the Santa Barbara platoon was called together for a three days' reunion and rally during the first week in December. The day



SANTA BARBARA BOYS RALLY

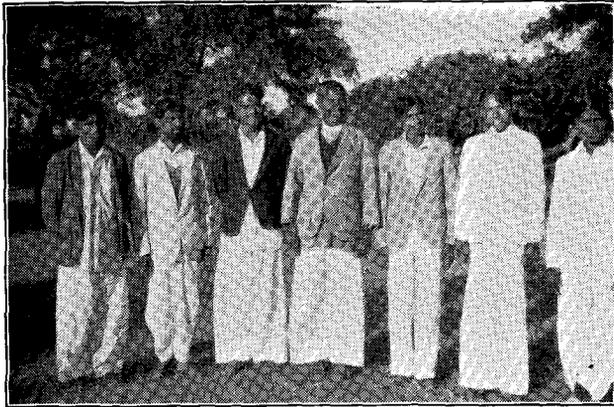
before this gathering was to be held, the boys began to come from all points of the compass. Some came on bicycles, some in an ox cart, others walked a distance of thirty-five miles, while some came by railway, and one little lad rode thirty-five miles on the handle bars of a bicycle.

The school boys did their best to give their "older brothers" a welcome home. The compound was swept and swept again, the rooms were thoroughly cleaned, a big open tent was erected for the meetings, and a smaller one for Rev. R. Smith, who was to have general oversight and help in the services. Over the gate was stretched a big red banner on which was printed the word "Welcome" in gold letters.

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“*Ye shall be witnesses unto me.*” Acts 1: 8.

Our Lord said we should be witnesses. That is, we were to pass on something “which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of Life.” His word is to His *disciples*, who know Him because of His having been revealed to them by God the Father (Matt. 16: 17). Then, as the verse shows, they must be qualified for this extraordinary testimony by being empowered by the Holy Ghost, Who is given to them that ask for Him (Luke 11: 13).



“ALUMNI” BOYS OF AKOLA SCHOOL

Thus, born of the Spirit and filled with the Spirit, God’s child is ready to be a witness for the Lord Jesus. His testimony will be simple, so that a little child will understand him. But because God is in his testimony it will be so profound that the greatest minds who hear him will be arrested by what he has to say. He will not be talking of “showy moralities,” or enacting “picturesque rites and a graceful routine of devotion.” He will have something more vital to tell than “sentimentalisms, bright or sombre”; something infinitely higher than “religious utterances on fit occasions, as to the grandeur of antiquity, or sacramental grace, or the greatness of creaturehood, or the nobleness of humanity, or the universal Fatherhood of God.” He will not be a religious philosopher. He will be a *witness* “unto Me,” Jesus said.

The word in the Greek is the word for martyr and Christ’s witnesses have the spirit of martyrs. They take God’s side and witness to Jesus Christ, “the Lamb of God Which taketh away the sin of the world,” when it costs persecution and, if need be, death. For they are more willing to own their Lord than they are to escape pain or to escape death. Are you a witness?

The General Assembly of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in India

The General Assembly of the Churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in India met recently. Rev. K. D. Garrison, Chairman of the Alliance Mission in India is Moderator of the General Assembly of the Churches incorporated under the above name. In his report to this important gathering of our young Indian Church (incorporated within the past two years), he brought some very interesting and very encouraging information. We cull from that good report the following:

“Today the Assembly meets for the first time in Gujarat. We praise God that in His mercy and goodness He has brought us to this day, for we believe that the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India has been brought into being not of the will of the flesh, nor by the will of man, but by God.

“We may count our corporate existence as about three years, to the present time. . . . During this time, we rejoice that God has given us the privilege of ordaining seven pastors, four in Gujarat and three in the Marathi area.

“During the year 1933, also, the Central Pastors’ Funds were started by the two Synods. . . . During the first year the Gujarati Central Pastors’ Fund received only Rs. 1,000 (\$350.00) from the Mission toward the support of nine pastors. [The balance was all paid by the indigenous church—*Ed.*], and the Marathi Fund was helped to the extent of Rs. 657 (\$250) in nine months for four pastors.

“The Moderator has attended all of the meetings of the Synods during the past two years, and most of the Church Councils. . . . I am glad to report that every meeting of the various Church Councils has shown an advance in efficiency in managing the affairs of the Council that is very gratifying.

“There are reported 33 organized churches; organized, that is, to the extent of having a *panch* (executive committee). There are also twelve groups of village Christians which are not organized, though if they are true believers they may be called churches. These 45 churches and groups have a membership consisting of 1,074 men and 1,014 women. . . . The adults and children together make a total Christian community of 3,795.

“Our churches report 65 Sunday Schools, in which are enrolled 1,254 male and 1,064 female scholars. These are taught by 103 men and 56 women . . . an average of almost 15 children to a teacher. For best results there should be more teachers.

“The churches baptized 138 persons last year, and report 412 enquirers, for whom we should pray.

“Forty local conventions were held during the year, with much blessing upon many of them.

“The income of our churches during 12 months was Rs. 7,622, of which Rs. 740 came from outside sources, leaving Rs. 6,882 (\$1763), as the giving of the church members.”

Ten Calls for Prayer

Annual meetings of the Church Councils during the latter part of January and early February, 1935.

For the caste people and Muhammadans of Murtizapur who attend the evening meetings at the mission house in Murtizapur. Some of these seem near the kingdom.

For the health of those of our missionary staff who have lately suffered much. This number includes Mrs. Auer, Mrs. Ringenburg and Miss King.

For the annual local conventions in the churches, in Gujarat, preceding the *mela* (general convention) which meets in March or April, 1935.

For all the churches that they may be revived and move with one heart against the power of their common enemy.

For our churches that they may be concerned to observe the week of evangelism in the coming spring.

For the Gospels and other Scripture portions, in several languages, which are sold daily and hourly on the railway stations of Mehmadabad, Kalol, Viramgaon, Akola, and elsewhere by our colporteurs.

For the children in our village schools and boarding schools that they may be thoroughly saved and filled with the Spirit.

For the missionaries on tour, that they may find the centres where the Spirit of God has prepared hearts for the gospel and have God's mind as to how to carry on this most vital of all the phases of our work.

For funds, so much needed for the work of touring, that willing messengers may not be hindered in carrying the glad news to sad and broken hearts.

A Happy Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

As the boys arrived, carrying their bed bundles, Bibles, hymn books, etc., on their heads, they were met by the reception committee and assigned to their appointed places. What a happy company sat down for the evening meal. Some had left wives and children at home but they still had a warm place in their hearts for their old school fellows. Evangelists, teachers, carpenters, masons, engineers, farmers, compounders, day labourers, a butler and a nurse—all members of the Santa Barbara family.

The rally opened with an early morning prayer meeting. Every day brought its own spiritual feast. From five to seven hours daily were spent in listening to messages from the Word, Bible readings, or times of song and praise. One evening was devoted to praise and testimony and did not break up until after midnight. As they sat in two big circles around a campfire the boys told of God's faithfulness in times of trouble and perplexity, how He had answered so many prayers, had healed them in times of sickness, and had been with them in hard places.

In spite of this late meeting on Saturday night the boys were all in their places for the early prayer meeting Sunday morning. Then at nine o'clock, Rev. K. D. Garrison, our Mission Chairman, gave a heart to heart talk about "Jacob's God," having already spoken of Jacob himself in an earlier message. In response to the closing invitation eight young men knelt at the altar to pray that their lives might be changed and that they might receive power for more effective service for the Master. We feel sure that God heard those earnest petitions and that the answer will be evident in their lives in the days to come.

The afternoon service was held in the Akola Church which entailed a three-mile walk. At four o'clock, with drums, songs and measured tread, they marched from the Mission bungalow to the church, where they filled the whole central portion of the building. Here the message was given by Mr. Ralph Erskine-Scott, a relation of England's royal family as well as a son of the King of kings.

After a song service in the evening the rally broke up, but not until it was decided to hold such a gathering annually and officers were elected to arrange for the next one. Monday morning, after the good-byes were said, they started homeward with glad hearts and happy faces. The *sabha* had been their very own and they all pronounced it a success. And now the Santa Barbara family is banded together in a new way. God grant that this new touch upon their lives may bear much fruit.

—HARRIET BEARDSLEE

News and Notes

The population of India is greater than that of any other country in the world today. The number of people *untouched* by any evangelizing agency is almost or altogether equal to the total population of the continent of Africa.

It is our hope, with the Lord's blessing, that THE INDIA ALLIANCE will appear as often, at least, as bi-monthly. Pictures taken by our missionaries will brighten its pages, and first-hand information concerning this great mission field will make it worth your while to read it.

Of every thirteen of India's villages, twelve are without a Christian; and India has 685,665 villages and towns!

Would you like to read THE INDIA ALLIANCE regularly? If so, send your name and address to the Publishers, Mission House, Akola, Berar, India.

If the great apostle to the Gentiles had lived until now and had begun to preach in India at the time of Christ's resurrection, giving one day's work to each village and resting one day in seven, he would still have 470 years' work to do before he had gone over the villages and towns of this idol-worshipping land. Each town and village has many idols.

Little new friends have come recently to cheer two of the missionary homes. They both arrived on November 3rd and one of them is Kathleen May Helpers, while the other is Ethel Florence Schlatter.

For investments with long and sure returns and with dividends that thrill, allow us to commend to you Christian missions to pagan lands. India is one of the most promising and one of the neediest.

The Alliance missionaries preach Christ, the incarnate Son of God, crucified and buried for our sins, raised for our justification, ever living at the right hand of the Father to make intercession for us, and coming soon again to reign for ever and ever. Are you backing them up?

Notes from the Mission Chairman

The Annual Conference was held later than usual this year, in order that we might have the unusual privilege of having Mr. and Mrs. Shuman with us. Their ministry amongst us was a great blessing to all of the missionaries.

Just before Conference we were made happy by the arrival of re-enforcements. Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Carner, returning after a prolonged and useful furlough, during which they had a teaching ministry at Nyack Missionary Institute, are taking up evangelistic work in the large Akola District. And we are pleased to say that Conference has again appointed Mr. Carner to be editor of *THE INDIA ALLIANCE*, and his editorial duties are assumed with this issue.

Misses Moore and Ransom also returned from regular furlough, and have been stationed at Khamgaon and Chalisgaon respectively.

New arrivals are Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Carner, the former being the eleventh child of missionary parents to return to the work of our society in India.

K. D. GARRISON



MISSIONARY DIRECTORY, 1935

Headquarters: AKOLA, BERAR

Chairman: REV. KIEL D. GARRISON

BERAR

Akola

REV. AND MRS. K. D. GARRISON
REV. AND MRS. E. R. CARNER
REV. R. SMITH
MISS H. C. BUSHFIELD
MISS A. LITTLE
MISS H. BEARDSLEE
MRS. M. RAMSEY
MISS B. STEED
REV. AND MRS. L. R. CARNER

Amraoti

REV. AND MRS. O. H. LAPP
MISS E. C. KARNER

Anjangaon

REV. AND MRS. L. E. HARTMAN

Chandur

REV. AND MRS. T. AMSTUTZ

Khamgaon

REV. AND MRS. WM. FLETCHER
MRS. E. AUER
MISS E. MOORE
MISS J. DERR

Malkapur

REV. AND MRS. O. G. SCHLATTER

Murtizapur

REV. AND MRS. L. J. CUTLER
MISS H. F. CUTLER

EAST KHANDESH

Bhusaval

REV. AND MRS. E. W. CROCKER
MISS C. RUTHERFORD

Nargaon

Vacant

Jalgaon

REV. AND MRS. A. C. EICHER

Pachora

Vacant

Chalisgaon

MISS A. HANSEN
MISS M. RANSOM

GUJARAT

Dholka

REV. AND MRS. C. A. GUSTAFSON
MISS M. WING
MISS E. KING

Kaira

Vacant

Mehmedabad

REV. AND MRS. A. HELFERS

Sanand

MISS C. HANSEN
MISS C. H. PETER

Viramgam

REV. AND MRS. J. S. RINGENBERG

Children's Home

Ootacamund, S. India

MISS E. LOTHIAN

Rest Home

Lonavla, Poona Dist.

MISS E. KRATER

Kedgaon, Poona Dist.

(Ramabai Mukti Mission)

MISS E. WELLS

ON FURLOUGH

REV. AND MRS. J. BRABAZON
REV. AND MRS. F. SCHELANDER
REV. AND MRS. A. I. GARRISON
REV. AND MRS. E. EICHER
MISS C. BJOLAND
MISS K. WILLIAMS
MISS M. RURBY
MISS B. CONGER