

5. everything will be self-supporting and financed by the national church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India within the time set before us.

Should missionaries ever have to leave India, I am fully convinced that the work will continue to go forward and shall progress under the leadership of the national church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We praise God for His help and guidance and we give Him all the glory and praise for what He has accomplished.

Q. We thank God for what has been accom-

plished and there is much more to expect from Him.

One more question before you leave. The churches will no longer need money from America for their pastors and evangelists. Could you tell us some of the other ways in which this money can be used?

A. You can still send us missionaries. The Bible Schools need support, and there is a great opportunity to serve and witness through literacy work, besides the large needs in producing and distributing literature. Above all, . . . pray for us, The Christian Missionary Alliance of India.



## Your Missionaries

This picture includes the fraternal delegates from the churches in the annual Mission Conference 1958. Our children arrived from boarding school for their long vacation when we were all together for Conference at Akola.

FRONT ROW: Miss. J. Woehrer, Elaine, Nancy & Bruce Dyke, Bronwyn, Rev. D. & Warren Cartmel, David Carner, Mary Vandegrift, Shaton, Merrill, Robin Perret, Judith, Frederick, Rebecca, Heather, Deborah Derr.

SECOND ROW: Mrs. J. Amstutz & Timothy, Mrs. H. Dyke, Mrs. R. Perret, Mrs. & Rev. A. C. Eicher, Rev. E. Jacober (Guest speaker) Rev. & Mrs. E. F. Eicher, Mrs. E. Hartman, Mrs. T. Amstutz, Miss. J. Derr, Mrs. R. Schlatter.

THIRD ROW: Rev. J. Amstutz, Rev. R. Perret, Mrs. D. Capps, Janet Eicher, Mrs. D. Cartmel, Mrs. G. Vandegrift, Ruth Carner, Mrs. G. L. Carner, Miss. H. Davies, Miss. F. Gerrie, Miss. M. Williams (Mukti Mission), Miss. W. Sanford, Mrs. J. Derr, Miss. A. Droppa,

BACK ROW: Jerry Carner, Rev. G. L. Carner, Rev. D. Capps, Rev. Rattansingh Chavan, Mr. P. Thode, Rev. G. Vandegrift, Mr. Z. L. Thorat, Mr. D. Telgote, Rev. F. Schelander, Rev. L. R. Carner, Rev. T. Amstutz, Rev. J. Derr, Rev. E. Hartman.

ABSENT: Mrs. L. R. Carner, Mrs. F. Schelander, Mr. K. Amstutz (teacher, Kodaikanal School)

ON FURLOUGH Rev. & Mrs. E. H. Lewellen, Miss. M. Ransom, Rev. & Mrs. L. F. Stengele

DUE FURLOUGH 1959 Rev. & Mrs. G. L. Carner, Rev. & Mrs. D. W. Cartmel, Miss. A. Droppa, Rev. & Mrs. E. F. Eicher

OUR OFFICE ADDRESS P. O. Box 5. Akola, Berar, Bombay State, India.

## Spreading the news Print and Sell

"People come into my office to buy books. When I show them ours, they say, 'We've already read that, and that, and that!'" Then we are conscious of how few books we have. Even with many more people interested in literature work during these last few years, there is still such a shortage of Bible Study books, clean fiction and interesting books for young people and children, and above all, material planned to bring unsaved souls to see their need of Christ, that our work is only bounded by the time, personnel and funds we have at our disposal. When the Soviets are flooding India with their literature, and other destructive forces and false cults are distributing attractively bound books, full of poisonous teaching, we must realise that we not only have a great opportunity before us, but a challenge as well. Sometimes when I get homesick for district work, and long to go on tour, and sit again among the women and children of our villages I remind myself that our books are reaching folk I have never seen, and that some of them purposely done in simple language for the new literates, will be read in these same villages. Join our ministry by praying daily for the literature work."

"In one very inaccessible village we held what we felt to be a very confused and unsatisfactory meeting in the market square, to the accompaniment of the village grain grinder. One of the preachers gave out the message at the top of his lungs while the grinder's engine provided the punctuation marks, and some quarrelsome women in the square put in the exclamation marks. We were all encouraged at the close of the meeting to find that the one hundred Gospels we had with us were not enough to satisfy the eager demand of the people."

"In one of the villages in this area a very interested shopkeeper was found who had purchased a Bible about ten years before. After our tour, the evangelist cycled out to visit him several times and succeeded in selling him about seven rupees worth of good Christian literature. Though it would seem from the natural point of view that a man of such a name as he has among his people would hardly be willing for the self-denial required to completely follow Christ, let us pray that the Word and the excellent books in his possession may bear fruit."

. . . culled from Annual Reports.

## Summer Rain

The sun beats down from burnished skies.  
The pitiless sun spears the rocks,  
and the rocks hurl their daggers of heat  
at languid men who pant in the shade  
and envy the buffalo his damp mud.  
The grass flees to sheltered niches.

All the earth cries to gods and goddesses for water,  
till, perchance, one should waken and hear, water,  
and rend the curtain of cloud with flashing sword  
and let fall a hoarded store of rain,  
clean rain that washes away the dust  
till all is green again.

The sun beats down from burnished skies,  
the pitiless sun beats down, O Lord,  
but there is rain in my heart, silver rain,  
for thou hast smiled upon its arid fields.  
And like green mist it falls,  
the cool, cool rain.

Caandran Devanesen  
"The Infinite Christ"

## The India Alliance

MARATHI FIELD  
1958



## Introducing

Perhaps we should begin by introducing ourselves as it has been a long year since we came to your home. Our shape and size have changed but our purpose is still the same, to inform you of the achievements, hopes, and needs of the churches with the name "The Christian and Missionary Alliance of India, Marathi Synod" and of your missionaries called alongside by Jesus to share His command to "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

The churches have decided that after April 1959 they no longer need Mission help for the support of their church workers, pastors and evangelists. They have a vision and a burden. There are nearly two thousand church members of whom some are in town churches but many are scattered in small groups off the highways and down the village byways. They need diligent compassionate pastors who can preach and teach. They need fellowship in an environment that saps spiritual vigour like a succession of hot days. How shall they be encouraged, and how shall others be sent to those who have not yet heard? This is the vision and the burden.

We have asked the President, Secretary and the Treasurer of the Marathi Synod to share the churches plans with you. The Synod is the joint organisation of all the Marathi churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

**Rev. R. P. Chavan** is no newcomer to the office of President and is Pastor of the Akola church. You may have met him during his visit to General Council and the American churches in 1956.

**Rev. Y. T. Aghamkar** is the pastor of the Bhusawal church and a youth worker besides being Synod secretary.

**Mr. B. S. Kulkarni** as house father to the boys hostel has proved to be a manager of boys as well as of Synod funds.



Rev. R. P. Chavan

### Shoulders to the wheel

**Question:** The last annual meeting of the Synod made some big decisions. Pastor Chavan, would you sum up for us what the Synod did?

**Answer:** Since 1956 our churches have kept before themselves the goal of supporting all their pastors and evangelistic effort by 1960. In the annual meeting this year we have taken action to reach our goal in 1959, one year earlier than we had planned.

**Q.** It was a privilege to be present at the annual meeting, which demonstrated the ability of the Synod to conduct business efficiently. Rev. Aghamkar, would you please give us out of your minutes the decision that was made?

**A.** The minutes were of course in Matathi. You won't want that, but this is what we did. "Our purpose is to be self-supporting and do evangelism. Everything is prayerfully done with that end in view. Because all pastors, evangelists, catechists and biblewomen have been receiving their allowances and expenses from the Central Fund we have not been achieving the success that we require. Until April 30th. 1959 these allowances will be paid from the Synod but after that date the Synod will not be responsible for them."

**Q.** What difference does this make to your work as Synod Treasurer Mr. Kulkarni?

**A.** Each month I have been sending their allowances to the pastors, evangelists, catechists and biblewomen. To do this I have been receiving from the churches 90% of their income. After April 30th. 1959 I will not make these allowance payments. The treasurers of the local churches will pay their own pastor. The churches will now send me 10% of their income and if they support an evangelist beside their pastor they will forward it to him through me.

**Q.** The Synod treasurer has been receiving a subsidy toward the payment of allowances. Will the local churches receive any such help from the Mission?

**A.** The local churches will receive no help from the Mission to pay allowances, and the subsidy to the Synod will cease.

**Q.** Pastor Chavan, does this mean that after April 1959 all pastors and other workers must expect their support to come from their local church?

**A.** Yes. In cases where support from the church is not sufficient, the pastor or evangelist is free to provide for himself and family by some trade or other means.

**Q.** What does the Synod hope to achieve by making pastors and evangelists dependant on local churches for support?

**A.** Let us not forget that it is God in whom we trust and He will provide. We are convinced that the Indian churches must support their own ministry and we are ashamed that the Indian churches have been lagging in doing this. This move by the Synod will help the churches to be more aware of their responsibility. In one area where not even one man was receiving his support from the churches, three men will now receive their support. Six small village groups have decided together to support two men. These are results we can see already.

**Q.** Pastor Aghamkar, what would you say have been the influences that have led the Synod to this decision?

**A.** Our delegates when they returned from Bangkok in 1955 had the vision of the churches supporting the ministry and the work of evangelism. We saw afresh our need to tithe, so that in 1956 we commenced our plan to be self-supporting by 1960. We made a good start but giving was levelling off and we were not advancing. At the same time the Mission has been cutting its subsidy 20% each year. This made some see that we would have to accept full responsibility for the work of the church. It has been easy

for the enemies of the Gospel to discredit us. They cast scorn on our dependence on foreign money. We needed to demonstrate to them that we serve Jesus because we love Him and not because of any incidental advantages there may have been in being Christian. This action of the Synod will help answer their charges.

**Q.** Mr. Kulkarni, do you think the churches will be able to support all the pastors and evangelists that are being supported with Mission help?

**A.** If the experience of other countries is any guide we will have more workers than we had with Mission support. Under the generous conditions offered them some workers have resigned but we expect the churches will undertake for more men soon so that there will be a return to almost the same number of workers.

**Q.** Pastor Aghamkar, would you tell us what these men are doing who have sent in their resignations?

**A.** Under the terms which they have resigned they have received the equivalent of their incomes until April 1959. This means that most of them will be able to invest in fields or some business. One man is opening a shop, another is hiring out bicycles. An evangelist who has been promised partial support by some villagers intends buying some buffalows to sell milk. These men will provide leadership in their villages and continue to witness through their new occupations.

**Q.** What difficulties do you anticipate under this new plan, Mr. Treasurer?

**A.** The manner in which this plan was accepted by the Synod gives us confidence for the future. Thanking the President and the Executive Committee for their lead, they acknowledged the necessity of this action and prayed earnestly for its success. A small few of the workers do not understand the move but we trust their doubts will be answered by the churches who have expressed their desire to go forward.

**Q.** We will ask Pastor Chavan to add anything further that will help us share the vision and the burden of the churches.

**A.** We are passing through a crisis period but the hand of the Lord is with us and we hope in the name of the Lord that,

1. we will have many new converts
2. many new churches will be added
3. we will have many more pastors and evangelists
4. many people will catch the vision, tithe, and give beyond their tithe



Rev. Y. T. Aghamkar



Mr. B. S. Kulkarni