



Small Rural Congregation

"Come my beloved,.....let us lodge in the villages."  
Song of Solomon 7:11.

#### OPPOSITION

**Anjangaon.**— The uniting of scattered village Christians into organized churches in rural areas like Anjangaon has been extremely difficult. There are long distances between villages with no means of transportation. There is no means of communication for consultation. Tithes for pastor's support are based on the meager wage scale of twenty one cents a day. Most of our Christians are agricultural laborers and must depend upon the uncertain climate and the changeable whims of wealthy land owners for employment.

Added to this is the opposition of Buddhism. Its resurgence is in the name of authoritative religion but it is a reform movement among the depressed classes seeking social and political recognition. Its glowing promises and counterfeit tactics of holding meetings, of collecting offerings, and of denouncing idol worship have deceived many segregated Christians in remote villages. Converts bring pressure on Christian relatives and friends to join the movement by making threats, by denying work in the fields, and by forbidding them to draw water from the wells.

In spite of these adverse circumstances eleven rural churches have been organized where some form of contact between neighboring villages could be made. None of these churches can fully support a pastor but members are learning to gather together regularly, to keep account of their offerings, and to organize witnessing bands.

Betty and Herbert Dyke, Jr.

#### ZEAL

**Bhusawal.**— Three city churches using the languages of Marathi, Hindi, and English, respectively, are zealously carrying on in Bhusawal. Since this is a railway junction, there is usually a number of Christian students sent to the Railway Training School. An earnest group of these students has been attending a Sunday afternoon Bible class. From studying the Word of God, they became interested in accepting the Saviour. It was with deep joy that we prayed with them for personal salvation. Let us pray that as school closes and they return to their homes that they may be witnesses in their new environment.

The Sunday Schools are all well attended and many of the teenagers and young men have indicated their purpose to take Christ as their personal Saviour. May these young people grow up to be true servants of Christ and witness in their homes.

Thank God for the interest shown and for the opportunity of co-operating with the zealous churches at Bhusawal. The Marathi and Hindi churches are both fully self-supporting and are making plans to raise funds for the partial support of one evangelist to work in a village area. Many of these members are railway employees with incomes yielding tithes and offerings far above those of church members in rural churches.

Anna Lou and Jonathan Amstutz

#### INDIA ECONOMICALLY UNDERDEVELOPED

Two India-United States conferences have convened on the government level in the month of May "to examine India's problems of economic growth" and "social development" during the last ten year period of two Five Year Plans. These bi-national meetings have brought to the attention of the world the fact that India's "development problems" must be solved more speedily than they have been in the past and that "stability in which progress can be made" must be created at once if India is to remain a free nation.

The Indian Church, growing in this present period of transition, is also facing these problems of "underdevelopment" and "economic instability". Our Christian and Missionary Alliance churches, after eight months of concentrated effort to raise support for pastors through tithes and offerings, have been able to undertake the full support of fifteen out of sixty pastors and evangelists. The other forty-five trained men are still seeking employment as laymen in order to support themselves and their large families.

The greatest factor from which India suffers economically and over which she has no control is the unreliable rainfall of her wet and dry type of tropical climate. Not only is rainfall uncertain but there is a wide "fluctuation in the amounts from year to year. "The Mc Graw Hill Series in "Elements in Geography" state that, "One



Indigenous Development of the Churches  
(Notes from Annual Reports)

#### INITIATIVE

**Murtizapur.**— Last hot season, during the absence of the missionary, the new Christians of the small village of Potha felt lead to build a small church. Each evening, after working long hours, men, women, and children labored to erect the mud walls. The contributions from their meager wages of twenty-one cents a day, were inadequate to pay for the materials needed to complete the doors, windows, and roof. Larger churches and outside friends were inspired by the enthusiasm and initiative of these newly baptized Christians and donated enough money to finish the church. Now in Potha there is a church and all but three families in the village are members.

There has been a hearty response to self-support throughout Murtizapur district. Offerings have increased from twenty-nine dollars last year to two hundred and eleven dollars this year. Our largest church has agreed to fully support their pastor. The other churches have pledged partial support to their pastors. Four of our evangelists have secured employment and will continue their service as laymen. One is continuing in full time service in faith on whatever his circuit of small churches can give. Pray for the pastors and especially for the laymen who in this indigenous church are beginning to see their responsibility and in many places are rising to the occasion.

Mary and Gillete Vandergrift



Zealous Bhusawal Congregations

"The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

John 2: 17

year may bring such an abundance of rain as to flood the fields, rot the crops, increase the ravages of injurious insects and fungi, while the following year may witness even more severe losses from drought". In the same book there is a chart showing "variations in amounts of annual rainfall over a twenty year period at Nagpur, India (the general geographical area in which the Christian and Missionary Alliance is located), which reveal the fact that seven of the twenty years had rainfall below normal and ten of the twenty years had rainfall above normal. India has suffered again this year from this unseasonable precipitation and only fifty per cent crops have been harvested throughout our area.

Tropical diseases, too numerous to mention, relentless high temperatures because of the nearly vertical rays of the sun the year round, acute fertilizer shortages (because nearly all the manure has to be utilized for fuel in the preparation of meals), undernourishment, overpopulation (to the extent of two hundred fifty persons per square mile) are other vital factors related to and determining the economic development of the Indian church.

Visualize these stark facts and appreciate the demands they make on your Indian brethren as you read these notes from the Annual Reports. "Except the Lord build the house" in India, "they labor in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1. (Editor)

## PRAYER BANDS

**Akola.**— In the story of the "Feeding of the Five Thousand", have you ever noticed this phrase, "besides women and children?" Yes, they too, had a satisfying portion from that wonderful meal. The Christian women have been feeding upon the Bread of Life and as a result they have taken new interest in helping in the indigenous church.

Three years ago twelve women's groups, scattered throughout the churches, united together one day each month in a twelve hour prayer chain. This vision spread until one village woman, the only Christian in her village, asked, "May I have an hour to pray each month in your prayer chain?" Other village women's groups became inspired and began to join until now there are twenty-two praying links in that chain. Please pray that God will raise up leaders in the village groups because often there is no one among them who can read the scriptures.

"Christian Doctrine" by the President of the Marathi Synod, is used as a guide to their Bible study. A regular system of memorizing Bible verses is being started. Some groups make regular trips to surrounding villages to witness, to distribute tracts and to visit the sick. So far all the expenses have been met by the women themselves and they trust that their "love offerings" this year will be enough to fully support one Bible Woman.

Ruth Schlatter

## EXPANSION

**Akot.**— There was rejoicing when the necessary permits were granted to build the new Akot bungalow. Akot is a bustling center of building activity because it is to be one of the main stations on the new railway that cuts through that area of our territory and connects us with South India. Consequently, we have had to compete with the "Railway" in the matter of labor and labor scale of pay. Good skilled labor has been at a premium. Every other coolie masqueraded as a contractor. But in spite of these circumstances and the interruptions of the rainy season we were able to complete the house.

Akot is located in one of our most fruitful areas. Interest is being shown by the tribal people along the edge of the jungle country. We press forward in faith and hope to reap an abundant harvest in this promising region.

**Akola.**— On September twenty-second the seventeen adult Christians from three small villages in Akola district met together to form the united Sangvi-Ugwa church. Each member has promised to double his giving for the coming year. This will mean that they will be giving only twenty-five per cent of the pastor's support. Under such circumstances our poor rural pastors will encounter hardship under the new self-supporting scheme.

Betty and Roland Perret

## INSPIRATION

**Poona.**— Christian literature is contributing to the development of the churches in India. Three years ago, delegates attending an All-India Literature Conference recommended that those participating in the publication of Christian literature in respective language areas join forces to increase efficiency. In cooperation with this vision the Christian and Missionary Alliance and other fundamental missions joined the Word of Life Publications.

Our united efforts after one year have been rewarded by sales being tripled and there is hope that the progress made will lead to self support. The work is growing so rapidly we hardly know what to do first. There are untouched manuscripts on our shelves waiting to be done. The only answer is an increased staff of workers and a more suitable building for expansion.

Some excellent Bible Study books, another commentary for the book-club, some children's books with stories of children in other lands, a song book, and a number of tracts have been translated into Marathi and printed. All these materials have been selected and prepared with much prayer and are despatched with the hope that both Christians and non-Christians will receive new light and guidance. Books, in order to be read must be advertised and recommended. Pray for the increasing emphasis on distribution among the churches and the book-stores being opened in many new centers.

Julia Derr



Rural Congregation with no Church Building

".....the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Acts 7:48.

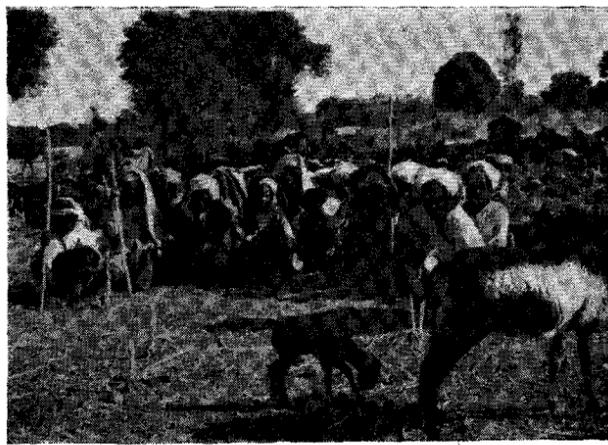
## DISCIPLINE

**Khamgaon.**— Many times I wish I had the wisdom of Solomon when I have to make decisions in response to the discipline problems that arise daily at the girl's boarding school. What would you do with a child who constantly disobeys, is disliked by everyone, creates problems in the school, and defies discipline? Send her home?

In our weekly staff meetings we spent time in prayer for this child and others like her. The answer came many days later when Indira, age ten, came to my office and said, "Auntie, I'm not saved. I want to be." God had spoken to her stubborn heart and she came asking for forgiveness. I prayed and then explained to her that the enemy would not all of a sudden drop her now that she had come for salvation. The next day she came to my office door with tears streaming down her face. She was in trouble again. She has had her ups and downs, but we have claimed her for God.

After Indira made the break in coming to the Lord there were over thirty children who came seeking salvation. What joy it was to lead them to the Friend of children who waits to put His blessing upon each one. It is God who bringeth salvation. Our hearts rejoice in His mighty power.

Ann Droppa



Tribesmen with their Herds

"Behold, he cometh.....and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over Him." Revelation 1:7 (A.S.R.)

## NEW ATTITUDES

**Jalgaon.**— There are signs of a new attitude among our individual church members towards their responsibility to give support to their church programs. Recently the Jalgaon Sunday School planned a Sunday School Rally and invited three Sunday Schools in neighboring towns to attend. There was an excellent response and a record attendance. Seeing the big crowd the treasurer of the church left the meeting, quickly secured a public address system, arranged for its transportation to the church and installed it with outside loud speakers. This enthusiastic cooperation added to the program and the rally proved to be a success attended with much blessing.

The members have entered whole heartedly into all the other activities of the church. Giving has increased and the recent steps taken by the Marathi Synod to establish fully self-supporting and witnessing churches have been received with general approval and entered into with a new zeal. The church has pledged to fully support her pastor.

With the able assistance of the pastor and one evangelist we were able to visit all the villages except two in Jalgaon district. Earnest enquirers have come to us all during the year. Pray that they will have the courage to openly confess the Truth which they often consent to with their intellects but find difficult to accept personally into their hearts.

Faith and Donald Capps

## ORGANIZATION AND READJUSTMENT

**Chandur.**— There are two organized churches in this district cooperating in the new scheme of self-support. The church in Chandur City has functioned under the guidance of the Marathi Synod for several years and now has pledged to contribute about half of her pastor's support. The average Sunday School attendance is thirty and they conduct weekly prayer, women's and children's meetings and observe missionary Sunday. All the Christian festivals have been occasions of special emphasis for spiritual growth and witnessing.

The other church has just been organized. It is a small group with five families and two widows. Offerings are inadequate to support a pastor so the evangelist who visits them must earn his own living as a layman. This group needs to have a place of worship to encourage the members.

This period of transition has made awful demands of our consecrated pastors and evangelists. To abruptly change their occupations of "fishing for men" to go "fishing for fish" has created problems of mental and physical re-adjustment for them and their big families. Like toiling Simon, experience has taught them the futility of "taking nothing" when it conflicted with Jesus's command "Follow me." So pray earnestly for our partially supported pastors who under the new plan of self support cannot give themselves "continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Esther and Tillman Amstutz