

Song of India



Grafika

GUJARAT

FALL-WINTER 1969

A MAN OF FAITH



Joseph and Vali with Handmade Bricks

The Bible has much to say about individuals who exercise faith. This is the story of a man of faith named Joseph. He is a refugee who came across the borders during partitioning and settled in a small village ten miles from our home. We met him while he was working at the cotton gin in Radhanpur. To our surprise he identified himself as a Christian. He faithfully attended services and soon invited us to his village where we met more of his kind. They had professed faith as children and studied

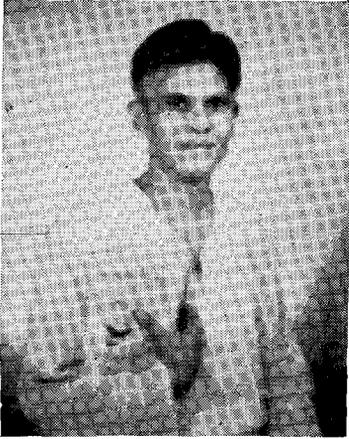
in a Roman Catholic institution. During one visit with Joseph, two laymen and the writer led him from his only knowledge of the ten commandments to the One Who fulfilled them, the Lord Jesus Christ. Over the years he has been an inspiration to us in our many visits to his village. His wife, Valiben, has had the same keen interest for the things of God and we baptised her this year in a deep well (3 ft. of water) on the edge of the village. This made the family a stronger witness before their neighbours.

One day several months ago Joseph indicated his desire to build a church in the village. To prove his determination he spent considerable time and energy making bricks for this purpose. He also dedicated to the Lord a piece of his property where the church will be erected. We have encouraged him and expect that this project will be truly a product of indigenization.

Like Nehemiah in his day, so also our friend Joseph soon experienced much ridicule and opposition and threatenings in the project of putting up the church. The devil was angry and much friction occurred. Laymen from the city of Ahmedabad stood with us in urging Joseph to lay the foundation and put up the walls with the assurance that God's people would help in finishing off the roof, windows, and door. Then famine struck. Joseph's bullocks died. Food became scarce. The government organized relief works and by deepening ponds and building roads, Joseph and his neighbours have been able to carry on through the hot, dry summer months.

Now the church project, held in abeyance, is once more being given impetus. Rev. Yohan L. Christian, president of the Gujarati church, and an able assistant, Rev. Benjamin B. Christian, have taken keen interest in this work and assure us that it will become a reality with the help of the Indian church. When the roads to Joseph's village are sufficiently dry

'GIVE YE THEM TO EAT'



**Mr. Christian is C.E.E.F.I.
Secretary for Gujarat**

In the state of Gujarat, India, there was no Sunday School material which pointed children to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. This resulted in spiritual hunger. Though the children were following Christ, they were weak from lack of food. Jesus was filled with compassion when He saw the 5,000. He must also have been filled with this same compassion when He saw our spiritually hungry Christian children. So He commanded the leaders of Gujarat, 'Give ye them to eat'.

Just as the disciples found the boy with the five loaves and two fish, so the Sunday School leaders found the Christian Education department of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (CEEFI). This organization had five lesson books—like the five loaves of bread!—and gave them to Gujarat. The C. & M.A. Mission offered to supply half of the expenses, from a donation of funds made in 1967 by the National WMPF in the U.S.A. Translators began the work of faithfully putting the books into the Gujarati language. The Literature Committee undertook the responsibility of printing and distribution.

Like the five loaves of bread, these five departmental books (Gospel Light Beginner, Primary, Junior Intermediate, and Senior) for the first year were prepared, and students and teachers have been using them since January, 1969. The second year books are being translated and printed now. In 1970 we expect to complete the third year books.

Our children are being given spiritual food. Pray that they will be satisfied and grow into mature Christians.

—MR FRANKLIN CHRISTIAN

REACHING INDIA'S CHILDREN

In Gujarat . . .

A wonderful sight! Kiddies' parks full and running over! Everywhere color and children! They are mostly girls between 5 and 12 years, dressed in their best: short nylon frocks for some, others in ankle-length skirts edged in silver braid with matching midriff blouses, or in neatly-draped silk saris. The future—that is what this is about. An annual fast of 5 days for 5 years for very young girls to assure them of good husbands, and, since they

must live with them for many years, good in-laws!

A fast? Yes, they eat only one meal, at noon, and that without salt. They are allowed to drink tea and munch on dry dates, nuts and fruits. School is held only in the mornings for they must play in the parks in the cool of the evening. The last night is a full one of play with singing, dancing, perhaps a movie.

An important part of the celebration is the excursion with older sisters and friends. Plates of



V.B.S. Leaders with Miss Burley

sprouted grain, a small water pot, rice, lemons and red powder are held high in their hands as they march to the temple for worship and then to the river to dispose of the offerings. These are Hindu girls receiving the part of their religious education which insures for them a good future.

But there is another thrilling sight! Hundreds of other little girls, along with their bigger sisters and even their brothers, for one or two weeks make a colorful parade not to the parks and gardens but to their 'temple' (church) and overflow even into the corners of its compound. Hands are not held high with sprouting grain and only a few wear new garments, but new life springs up in the heart-shaped vessels of their born-again lives. Songs pour from those hearts until movie and radio tunes are forgotten. There are Scripture verses, handwork, chapel and a closing program. These are Christian children. And this is their religious education. We call it Vacation Bible School and its purpose is the

preparing of hearts and lives for the future, for time and all eternity.

Our problem is this: 90 lessons are required for 1 VBS! Handwritten copies deteriorate quickly and get lost. Courses should be made available in print but wisdom and time are needed for translation, checking, printing and proofreading. Arrangements are necessary for storage and distribution, then training of staff in methods.

Prayer can solve these problems. Prayer—yours and ours—can insure a bright future through VBS for the children of Gujarat! For your power-filled effectual prayers, we fold our hands Indian fashion and say, 'Many, many thanks'!

—MISS L. C. BURLEY

In the Himalaya Mountains . . .

What a joy it is each week to prepare the lesson for my ten fourth standard Sunday School boys. Only two come from a Christian background, the others from non-Christian homes. Six little boys have long hair tied on top of their

heads in a knot, which indicates they are Sikhs. What precious children they are and what joy it is to convey to them God's wonderful message of salvation. They have been in my class for five months and gradually the truth about sin and salvation is being understood. Their replies to my questions reveal their comprehension.

These children attend a nearby boarding school. Six come from Thailand where their parents are in business but desire their children to be educated in the home country. The others come from distant places on the plains. All are far away from home and parents.

First they learned the books of the Bible. Some found pronounc-

ing the names very difficult. Now they find it fun to have Bible drills. Each one strives to read the passage first. They are learning many passages of Scripture, such as Psalm 1, 23, the Beattitudes, Ten Commandments, and other verses. I have been quoting Psalm 119:11, 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee,' to show them the reason for encouraging memorization.

Pray with us for these who are precious in His sight. The Word will not return void. Let us claim His promise. I need your prayers as I seek to bring them into the family of God. May they see that Jesus is the 'Way, the truth, and the Life'. —MRS PAUL HAAGEN

REACHING INDIA'S WOMEN

It was a hot day in May. A few days previously when we had been to the village of Hebron for weekly Bible classes, there seemed to be someone ill with sunstroke in nearly every home. And here we were with plans all made for the first Mehmedabad District rallies for women and children.

'I expect only about a dozen will turn out', pessimistically remarked my Indian colleague. It was our first attempt at such a ministry in this area and I had hoped for more.

Quite early we saw the first woman arrive from the eastern district churches. Going with them to the municipal garden across the road from the mission house, we made ourselves comfortable on the grass under the shade of a tree. As we waited, women in one section of the garden and children in another, others began streaming across from the nearby bus station. Some came in a bullock cart from the far village of Akalacha. All were dressed in their best clothes.

Special speakers were Mrs Evans for the women and Miss Burley for the children. After the services we returned to the mission compound and sat on the porch in rows, Indian fashion, to enjoy refreshing tea and sweets. The messages had spoken to our hearts, the fellowship had been sweet, the snacks delicious. It had been a precious experience. We began making plans for the next rally in an even more centrally located spot. The second rally for the other side of the district was held a few days later on a Christian's farm.

Total attendance was eighty. Unexpectedly the high school girls had to report for classes and those who had shown keen interest missed out. But we rejoice in God's blessing of the past year, and press on in faith for further development of this work and a deepening of the spiritual lives of our Alliance women and children. We need your prayer support for it.

—MISS R. E. BLEWS

REACHING INDIA'S YOUTH

'God has put a great burden on our hearts to hold a Gospel Camp for nominal Christian students of Southern Gujarat area who are studying in different colleges, that they may come to know Jesus our Lord as their personal Savior. There are about 40 colleges in this area and it is our desire and prayer that we may invite at least one student from each college. God willing, we have fixed the dates of the camp for May 5th through 9th, 1969 and it will be held at the Spiritual Life Centre of Broach, a town between Bombay and Ahmedabad.

'We are conscious that a host of people like you in India and abroad are faithfully upholding us in your prayers'.

The writer of the above is a fine Gujarati Christian student studying in a college in Surat, South Gujarat. He and the Surat Evangelical Student Union (similar to IVF) share the vision of leading nominal Christian students into a living relationship with the Lord so that through them the Gospel witness might be effectively given to non-Christians. What a joy was mine to be invited to have a share in this ministry! In the camp mentioned, my assignment was to bring the message each day for the combined opening session, to lead the Group Bible Study for girls, and to do personal

work among them. As I lived and worked with them it was a thrill to see God answer prayer. One by one the unsaved yielded to the wooing of God's Spirit.

The last day came and still there was one girl Smita, who resisted the Spirit's voice. Then that evening a strange thing happened. As the girls left their dorm to go to the meeting, the last one out thought everyone had gone and very conscientiously bolted the court door. When I went to go out I found myself locked in! No one could hear my calls. I thought of attempting to climb over the wall but decided it was too far to jump. Then like a flash the thought came to me—'Shut in with God!' For what purpose? To pray! God had allowed this to happen so I would spend that time interceding for Smita and for Jayvant and other boys who still had not yielded to the Lord. During that service my part was to pray for victory as the battle proceeded. And the victory was granted! Smita, Jayvant, and others met the Lord.

As a result of that camp other college students are being reached with the Gospel through these who are overflowing with their newfound joy. We are keeping in touch through letters and it is a joy to learn of what God is doing through them. But the battle continues. Smita faces many temptations. Your part is to pray!

—MRS E. J. ENTZ

(Continued from page 2)

from monsoon rains, these two leaders plan to come to inspect and finalize this project. We invite you to join us in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving for Joseph, whom God has selected to be added to the roll of faith heroes of Heb. 11. 'For faith is deaf to doubts, dumb to discouragements, blind to impossibilities, knows nothing but success.'

—REV. EDWARD G. JACOB

THE FIRST CHURCH—SUPPORTED EVANGELIST!



Rupa and Saroj

'Our desperate need is for someone permanent to work with us in village evangelization. Perhaps soon, in answer to prayer, the church will be enabled to send and support a national worker.' This was our challenge written in the ALLIANCE WITNESS July 11, 1962 issue entitled, 'Power over the Enemy'.

We are happy to report that your prayers have been answered! On July 21, 1969 the President of the Church accompanied the first church-supported evangelist to our station in Radhanpur. What a thrill it was to welcome Rupa and his new wife who will be with us in training for a year. The church has assured us that when he leaves for Bible School they will supply someone else so that village evangelization may continue unhindered in this area.

Rupa was a Hindu, born in a tiny village. He tended goats and cattle as a child and then began studying the Hindu scriptures at the age of

eleven. When he was sent to a Christian school to study and found that they did not keep caste regulations, he felt insulted and carefully kept aside his own drinking water so that it would not be contaminated by those lower than himself. He avoided attending church.

'At this time', writes Rupa, 'my Uncle sent me a Bible and hymnal. In the Bible I found a paper advertising the Light of Life correspondence course, and sent for it. As I studied the course and read the little booklet of strange words, my heart was shaken. It seemed as if Jesus Christ Himself was calling me. I saw in His life power, divinity, authority and the ability to forgive sin. His own words were, 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'. I was certainly heavily laden with the burden of sin. I was in darkness and these words seemed precious. I went to a Light of Life Camp and there gave myself to Christ, falling at His feet.'

After Rupa joined the church his family rejected him and his father refused to assist him further educationally or financially. He became discouraged when all the doors of the world closed, but God opened another. He was given work and continued studying. For the past year he has been witnessing the good news of Christ in a village to village and house to house program.

Pray for Rupa as he continues this work with us and receives Bible instruction and training in preaching. Pray that this new venture of faith by the organized church may prove fruitful in the salvation of many.

—MRS EDWARD G. JACOBER

NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Radio

Pray that God will grant a clear signal for our radio programs being beamed from Manila. There has been poor reception for several months. Pray also that the new FEBC station being built on the nearby Seychelle Islands will be completed soon.

—REV. AND MRS E. J. ENTZ

New Churches

Recently several church leaders investigated the possibility of purchasing property in Gandhinagar, the new capital of Gujarat which is now under construction. Pray that the church may organize a work in this area.

We are planning to build two village churches: one 10 miles out in the farming district of Gandhinagar and one in Radhanpur.

—REV. AND MRS E. G. JACOB

Youth Work

Pray for the development of Mehmedabad Station as a Spiritual Life Center. This convenient location in Gujarat will undoubtedly be the venue for Evangelical Union, Sunday School, Youth, and Spiritual Life Conferences. Pray for needed facilities to accommodate up to one hundred persons for such meetings.

—REV. AND MRS K. H. KOSE

Correspondence Courses

Two new correspondence courses for our Light of Life study program in Mehmedabad are under consideration; one for Moslems and one on the book of Romans. We need wisdom in arranging for translation and printing, as well as additional personnel for handling the courses.

At present there are 78 students taking the courses of LIT (Leadership, Instruction, and Training) and sending in lessons for marking. Three of these are from outside India. Many groups are using the first course, CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS, as a text in their local Bible Study gatherings. Pray that God's Word will bear fruit in the lives of the students, preparing them to become spiritual leaders in their local churches.

—REV. AND MRS P. C. HAAGEN



Rev. Haagen Discussing Course with Colleague

PUBLISHED BY THE C. AND M. A. MISSION, NO. 20-CAMP, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT, INDIA

EDITED BY MRS EDWARD G. JACOB, MISSION, RADHANPUR, GUJARAT, INDIA

PRINTED IN INDIA BY K. A. KORULA AT THE WESLEY PRESS, MYSORE