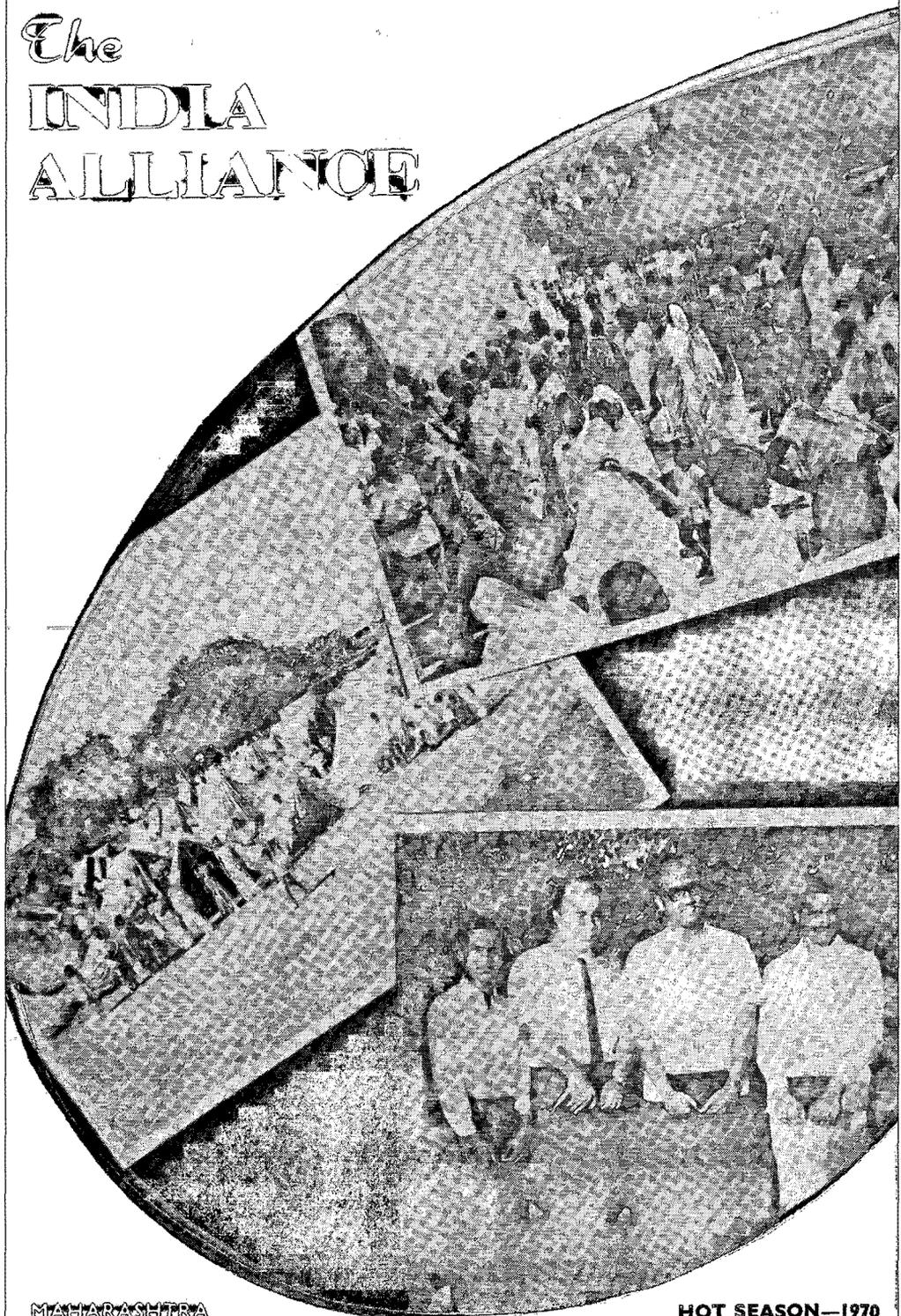


The INDIA ALLIANCE



'Return Unto Me, And I Will Return Unto You, Saith the Lord of Hosts'

This text from Malachi 3:7, in Marathi, stretched across the back wall of the platform became the theme, the burden and the challenge of the November meetings in Akola. Laymen, church leaders, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and Bible School students, were humbled before the searching Presence of a Holy God. Daily, the conviction grew upon us that God required more than what we had been willing to give Him to the present time. Before the hush of His Presence, the words of Mr K. V. Cherian of South India, 'Revival must begin with the leaders to be effective and lasting' caused much deep heartsearching. Mr Zac Poonen, of South India also, called of God out of the Indian Navy, brought an uncompromising message, 'If you have ought against your brother, or have sin in your heart, don't ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit, or the power of God in your life, because God won't give it to you'. Through these messages through His servants, God brought us low on our faces before Him. We smelled the 'rain' from Heaven, and with a deeper thirst we cry out to God for the outpouring. Brethren, Pray!

THE COVER PICTURE

This is a composite of scenes in evidence during the one month of meetings in Akola during November, 1969. The Upper Picture: the congregation coming out of the large bamboo and cloth tabernacle at the close of a meeting. The Center Picture: 'The Tent City', on the mission property which accommodated part of those attending. The Lower Picture: Left to Right—Mr P. Y. Singh, Conservative Baptist pastor and Interpreter for Mr Deeb. Mr Antoine Deeb, Speaker from Beirut, Lebanon; Mr Zac Poonen, Speaker from Vellore, S. India and his Interpreter, Rev. Joshi, Pastor of Ramabai Mukti Mission.

THE INDIA ALLIANCE

NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MAHARASHTRA FIELD
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

HOT SEASON 1970

NUMBER 1

This news bulletin is issued three times a year to encourage Christians everywhere to pray and give for the unfinished task in India. It is sent to you free of cost by some missionary (if initials appear on address label) or the Mission. Special gifts to make its publication possible will be gratefully accepted.

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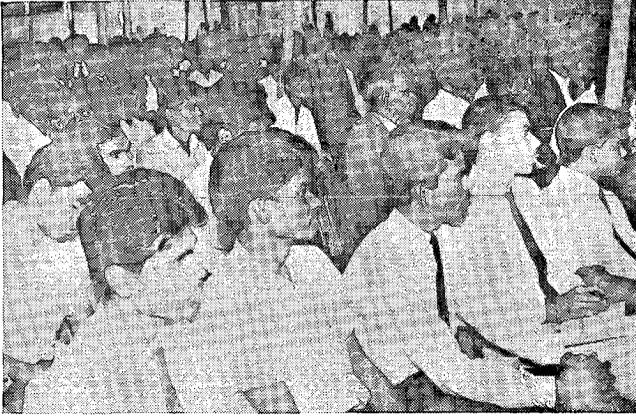
THE MAHARASHTRA REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

PRAYER BURDEN

For many months God has been laying upon many of His people in this area a burden of prayer for the work of the Spirit in the Church. It was back in 1968 that this prayer burden resulted in planning for a special revival campaign. Ed Lewellen was asked to make definite plans for a campaign as the Lord opened the way. He had been blessed through the ministry of Dr Duncan Campbell of Edinburgh, Scotland, and so Dr Campbell was chosen as the main speaker for the special meetings. He accepted the invitation to come to India for the month of November, 1969. The work began and gained momentum right through the year. As preparations progressed and the time for the meetings drew closer, the Lewellens moved to Akola. They began to send out letters to pastors and missionaries throughout the state and the response was most heartening. Although starting by having 500 copies printed of the first letter, the number of copies had to be increased until 4,300 of each bit of material had to be printed. Answers began to come in every mail. Individuals and groups were praying daily at a set time. Some set themselves to fasting once a week as they prayed for revival in Maharashtra. One pastor wrote, 'We are praying each morning in our church for revival, and are also asking God that He may begin the revival in our church'. Others wrote that for a month, and in one case for three years the burden of revival had been on their hearts. Now they were rejoicing in the work of God along this line.



The Leaders' Conference
Speaker: K. V. Cherian of South India



Part of the Congregation on the closing Sunday Morning

PLANNING BRINGS BLESSING

A managing committee with representatives from different church denominations was appointed and these members helped in many ways as the work of preparation increased the responsibilities. Even in the managing committee meetings the burden of prayer was very marked. For instance at one of these meetings one of the members was convicted of broken fellowship with one of his brethren. He asked his brother's forgiveness, resulting in the working of the Holy Spirit in the pastors' day of prayer later when these Christian leaders began to make things right with one another and waited before God for cleansing. One pastor reported that God had told him and his wife that they should give their full tithe for the revival until He told them to stop.

SPONTANEOUS GIVING

No plea for finances was made but giving for this work began spontaneously and thousands of rupees came in before the meetings ever began. This campaign was perhaps the biggest thing for which we had ever planned and involved days and weeks and months of hard work. Mr Lewellen's report gives us a little idea of what it all involved. 'Space does not permit the listing of the many areas of preparation for these meetings. A bamboo tabernacle to seat 2,000; eating arrangements and the catering for the 400 expected leaders for the Leaders' Conference; the building of two restaurants on the compound, and the negotiations for this, the eighty toilet rooms and all involved in this arrangement; bathing facilities; water and light arrangements; living accommodations for those attending; the appointing of song leaders, interpreters, ushers, counsellors; the preparations for special music; the compiling of a song book; the building of a special bookstore for the meetings; the organizing of children's meetings for one month, facilities for car parking; procuring watchmen for both day and night, are but some of the things which had to be taken care of'.

CAMPAIGN SPEAKERS

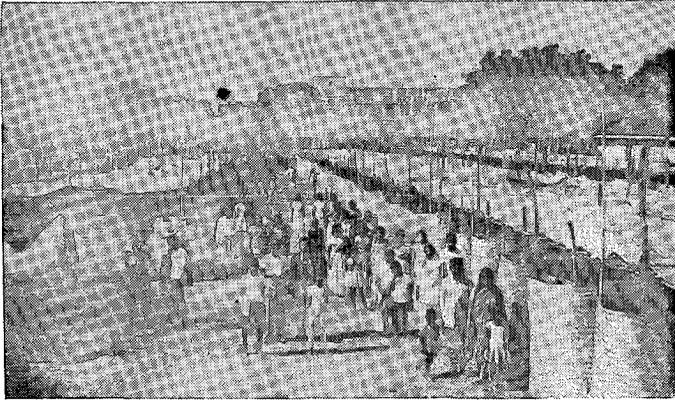
It was marvelous to see how God worked out every detail in the plans, in the preparations, expenses, and leading concerning the messengers of His choice. In the natural way it would have been a great disappointment and discouragement to learn just a few weeks before the meetings that Dr Duncan Campbell would not be able to come because of his health. But there had been such a looking to the Lord rather than to man that even this news did not dampen the spirit of expectation. And God had His own messengers for those days of blessing. We could not help but note the significance of the fact that every speaker finally chosen was from Asia. Antoine Deeb from the Alliance in Beirut, Lebanon, accepted the invitation to be the main speaker. Although he was busy at the time in an extended campaign of meetings in Europe, he felt led of the Lord to cancel his program in order to be with us here. The other speakers were just as consciously led to come and minister during those days. Rev. T. V. Cherian of Kerala, South India, Mr Zachariah Poonen of Vellore, Tamilnadu, Rev. Victor Manogarom, Youth for Christ Director from Madras, and Dr F. W. Schelander, one of our own missionaries, were all used mightily of God.

LEADERS AND YOUTH

Reporting on these meetings Mrs Dyke writes, 'Realizing that only the led can lead, the month began with the Leaders' Conference. Hundreds attended this from all parts of Maharashtra. It was a good beginning as God spoke to us all and led us on to desire all the fullness of God with an increased passion for souls. Following those days was a weekend for the youth. It seemed for the most part that they came by tens and twenties, carrying bedding and tin suitcases, ready to settle into tents for the next four days. They were full of expectancy as their jubilant voices filled the air. Right from the start the messenger pulled no puns nor created laughter to get through to the young people



L. to R. Mr. Victor Manogarom of Madras and his interpreter, Rev. Joshi of Mukti Mission.



'The Bamboo City'. Some Accommodations for those attending

and hold their attention. He began by asking the nearly 800 in attendance why they had come and what they expected. Was it for four days of fun and laughter, or was it to meet God? Often it was repeated that God speaks to youth who tremble at His feet. Youth of the Old Testament, who knew how to say 'no' to the crowd, temptation and sin, and knew how to say 'yes' to God were vividly presented. There was enough rain during that weekend to dampen the spirit of the crowd, especially during the closing night when a downpour drove all from their tents to seek shelter elsewhere. The mission bungalows became two large dormitories. But in spite of it all, there was a good atmosphere on the grounds, and excellent attendance in the huge bamboo matting sanctuary, even though at times one had to choose carefully to find a dry spot under the water-laden roofing.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

'During this beginning, and the twenty days that followed, the Lord did a mighty work. His hand was upon the messengers and the interpreters so that though they differed in mannerism and approach the Spirit of the Lord used them distinctly. He so wonderfully laid upon their hearts the same burdens and thoughts, and the same portions of Scripture. Whether for the leaders of the church, the youth, or the poor illiterate villager, if it was revival we wanted then the message was the same; Repent and humble yourself before God and men.'

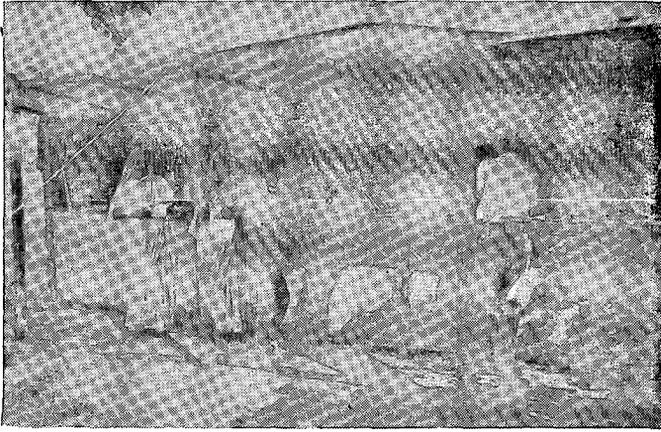
As we have already noted, much prayer had been going up before God for months before these meetings began. But it was wonderful to see the spirit of prayer that came down upon the camp as the meetings progressed. Groups began to meet in different places each day. A chain of prayer was started in the prayer tent and continued on until the end. Those who came from far and near could not but notice the atmosphere of the Lord's Presence. And blessing resulted as we humbled ourselves before the Lord.

REVIVAL BEGINS

Who can begin to tell what God did in the lives of those who came? Some came and went but were under such deep conviction that they felt they must return and then God met them in their need. There was much brokenness and true sorrow for sin, when national and missionary alike were willing to pay the price and humble themselves and make confession, pay back dishonest possessions, right long deep-seated grievances, give back to the government money received dishonestly in concessions and scholarships, and a true desire before God to lift up his brother rather than tear down, and dedicate lives anew unto God for His glory and service. We cannot say that revival has come but at least we are seeing the beginnings of that for which our hearts have been hungering . . . and the work continues. Conviction is still strong. The Holy Spirit is continuing to speak and reports are coming in of what God is doing in many of the churches. In one incident, three ladies had returned from the meetings to their church. In the first church service they brokenly testified of God's dealings with them, and began to make things right with those present. Conviction fell and the entire congregation broke before God. Wrongs were made right and stolen things were returned. The next day two ladies from there went to another village for a meeting with the congregation in that place. They gave their testimonies and the scene was repeated as the Holy Spirit took control and the members there began to ask each other's forgiveness. Within five days, in like manner, revival spread to four congregations. In another area, a young man returned to his work in a mission dispensary. He asked to meet with not just the head doctor, but with the Medical Board. As they met, he confessed that for a long period, he had been stealing medicines from the dispensary and selling them outside, and pocketing the money. Adding up the amount, the total came to one month's salary. This man then requested the board to withhold one month's salary at least, but he said that he was willing for any judgment that they might lay down. In another church the congregation



People coming out of the Tabernacle at the close of a Meeting



The Campaign Book Store

was Twelve Hundred Rupees in deficit in the Pastor's Fund. As the congregation prayerfully met, someone raised the question, 'What shall we do about the Twelve Hundred Rupees which before God, we promised to give?' The answer came back, 'Let's take an offering now'. Within two days the entire amount was paid up. Paper does not permit to recount the broken fellowships mended between Christians, including pastors, church leaders, and missionaries. Money stolen 12 and 15 years previously was returned. Sins of all descriptions were confessed. How can we describe God's workings in our hearts? The longing to see Him, to love Him, and obey Him, has become the yearning of church leaders, missionaries and laymen.

CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

After this unusual year it is not surprising that all of us are convinced of the need for increasing our ministry of intercessory prayer and for continuing plans not only for follow-up work among those who met the Lord, but also for more widespread and increasing ministries. The whole program of the Maharashtra Revival Campaign continues and we are trusting God for an increase in blessing in the year 1970.

—G. L. CARNER

(Taken from the Field Chairman's Annual Narrative Report.)

SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Four little fellows nine or ten years of age were squatting around a very realistic fire on an improvised stage passing the night hours while tending their bleating flock (their younger brothers made up in coarse goats'-hair blankets) when with a flash of light the 'Angel' appeared, giving the Annunciation. The angel was draped in a white sheet with an overshadowing sheaf of beautiful peacock feathers! This was a dramatic presentation of the story of the Annunciation being done by village boys and girls with very little Christian experience behind them, but they were presenting in drama, songs and memorized Scripture portions what they had learned in the previous eleven weeks of children's classes while their parents were studying in the Lay Workers' Institute here in Chikalda.

In the course of the almost three-hour-long program about fifteen children aged six to thirteen repeated ten Psalms including Psalms 1, 15, 19, 23, 24, 46, 95 and 100. They also repeated from memory the Beatitudes, the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, the names of the books of the Old Testament in metric form and those of the New Testament in an impressive staccato style, followed by the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah and the Lord's Prayer. There were many yawns on their young faces by then for it was well past 10:00 p.m. when this marvellous store of God's Word ceased flowing from the lips of these boys and girls, who, had their parents not been Christians would right now have been in their villages worshipping idols of wood and stone!

These children's classes are a parallel blessing of the Lay Workers' Institute, or as it is put in Marathi—the School for Christian Service Volunteers. The hot season term was the second term that most of the students had attended. A few were there for the first time.

The stated purpose of the Lay Workers' Institute is:

'To prepare selected village laymen and their wives to be effective witnesses in their villages; to bring them into dynamic Spirit-filled relationship with the Lord; to prepare the men to conduct worship services in the absence of their appointed pastor; to give training in fundamentals of Christian economy, home making, child care and instruction in adult education where needed. To teach industry and thrift and auxiliary means of financial betterment (cottage industries).'

This is a tall order for one or two eleven-week terms of study for villagers but it was simply wonderful how the men and almost all the women responded. And we have already told about the kiddies.

It was remarkable to see God's working in one particular case of the unsaved wife of one of the students. A good housewife and mother of one small child, this woman whose name is Tarabai (star) seemed to encounter a mental block the moment she came through the gateway leading to the chapel and women's classroom. In class, with the other eighteen women all awake and paying good attention, Tarabai would drop off to sleep while sitting there. Or if she didn't

sleep, she would give a silly laugh in reply to any question put to her. All the other women had done well in memory work (but were not as fast as their children!) but Tarabai, after ten weeks could not even repeat John 3:16! Her teachers were all very concerned about her spiritual condition as it was reflected in her negative attitudes. One day she was asked if she would like to be prayed for about her sleeping-in-class problem. She replied, 'yes'. The whole women's class prayed and the lesson began. Nobody thought much about Tarabai until at the end of the class period they realized she hadn't nodded off once! They rejoiced in this victory and the next day they united in prayer for her laughing problem. Praise God, from that day onward for the whole last week of school Tarabai neither slept nor laughed in class. Before the end of the term she prayed for salvation, and then, when asked to repeat John 3:16, she did so with no mistakes. We trust she is growing in grace and is a real help-meet for her husband in their village.

Six couples came from the Conservative Baptist Area, five from the Free Methodists and the remaining eight from the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches. The teaching staff members also came from the same varied church groups. From the very first day the unity of the body of Christ was stressed and we had wonderful oneness in Him among both staff and students. Praise the Lord.

We will much appreciate your prayers for those who will be coming next term for study and for the teaching staff who have the responsibility of teaching these Christian lay workers, their wives and their children. A survey made in the Church Growth class during the Hot Season Term revealed that the nineteen families present have a total of 3,169 relatives in 381 towns and villages. 647 of these relatives are Christians but as our Lay Workers return to their 2,522 non-Christian relatives, do pray that God will wonderfully use them in winning their own kinsmen as well as others now outside of Christ.

—The A. C. EICHERS

HERE AND THERE

*Mr Franklin Thomas was ordained at the Annual Missionary Conference in Akola, on October 16, 1969.

*On January 29, 1970 we were glad to receive into the C & M. A. Fellowship as affiliated members, the Evangelical Congregational Church of Bombay, and also the Saviour's Church of Dehu Road, Poona.

*We are grateful to the Lord for sparing the lives of Rev. and Mrs E. F. Eicher in their recent head-on collision with a loaded truck. Mrs Eicher, although sustaining many fractures and lacerations is recovering rapidly. We wish to thank all those who have prayed.

*We are glad to welcome back to the field in June of this year, The L. F. Stengeles, and the F. Roths and in August, the D. W. Capps.

*We pray for God's blessing and strength for Rev. and Mrs A. C. Eicher as they leave for furlough in June, 1970.

FORTY-SIX YEARS of FAITHFUL SERVICE

Miss Julia E. Derr left India on August 3rd, 1969 together with Miss Gerrie and Rev. and Mrs Don Capps. For Miss Derr this will be a very special journey. The first time she came to India was in 1923, when she made that same journey by ship taking a full month of sea travel. Now after forty-six years of missionary service, she is most probably saying a final farewell to this land of her adoption.

She will long be remembered by many, for not only has she had a long ministry but a very varied and useful one. Coming out to the field so young, with her natural aptitude, enabled her to secure an excellent command of the Marathi language. In order to reach the Moslems (about 12 per cent of India's population in general, and much more in certain areas) she also studied Urdu. There are few of our stations in which she has not laboured sometime or other, and many village areas reached by camping out in her tent. She has carried on alone in difficult stations that ordinarily had a missionary couple. Her ministry has covered such varied work as teaching in the Women's Bible School, in short term village schools and Refresher courses, but her largest ministry has been in the Christian Literature field. She has produced scores of tracts, and books in Marathi for Christians and non-Christians as well as for children. These have been mostly translations with all the work involved, but some original. With generous financial aid from friends at home, she has been able to produce hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature. When the C. & M. A. joined T.E.A.M. and the Central India Baptist Mission in organizing Word of Life Publishers, Miss Derr moved to Poona, and for many years merged her efforts with those of that body, as our Mission representative. To the very end of her ministry, though theoretically 'retired', she gave herself to this ministry. One of her last productions was an English translation of a compilation of answered prayer—personal experiences of a number of people—that she had earlier published in Marathi. With all this literature ministry however, Miss Derr carried the work of evangelism close to her heart and was always a source of real encouragement to the young student evangelists and other workers in her area. God enabled her to see a considerable interest in the Gospel, and some baptisms in the hither-to barren district of Khamgaon, where she spent her recent years.

Miss Derr knows our field, its people and its needs, and our churches with their strengths and weaknesses, as few do. We know she will pray and work for India as long as she lives. May God grant her the desire of her heart,—a fruitful ministry among Indian students in America.

Missionary Appointments

- Rev. and Mrs J. L. Amstutz—Principal, Bible Training School, Nargaon.
- *Rev. and Mrs D. W. Capps—Urban and Village ministries, Murtazapur.
- Rev. and Mrs G. L. Carner—Akola Headquarters, Chairman and Hostess.
- Miss Ann Droppa—Principal, Alliance Girl's School, Khamgaon.
- Rev. and Mrs C. H. Dyke—Village church—related ministries, Akot.
- †Rev. and Mrs A. C. Eicher—Lay Workers' Institute, Chikalda.
- Rev. and Mrs E. F. Eicher—Urban and Village ministries, Amraoti.
- *Miss F. A. Gerrie—Book Store and Reading Room, Bombay.
- Rev. and Mrs E. H. Lewellen—Campaign ministries, Anjangaon.
- Rev. and Mrs R. F. Perret—Amraoti, Bombay-Poona Exploration.
- *Rev. and Mrs F. Roth—Literature, Bible School Texts, Khamgaon.
- Miss W. S. Sanford—Principal, Womens' Bible Training School, Khamgaon.
- Dr and Mrs F. W. Schelander—Bible Revision, Bible School teaching, Bible Conferences, Sunday School and Women's Work, Bhusawal.
- *Rev. and Mrs L. F. Stengele—Sub-Treasurer, Urban and Village ministries, Akola.
- Rev. and Mrs A. B. Shaw—Teaching and Hostel Home parents, Kodaikanal.
- Rev. and Mrs F. L. Thomas—Alliance Book Shop and Library, Akola.
- * Expected return in Summer, 1970.
- † Going on furlough, Summer, 1970.

INVEST IN THE KING'S BUSINESS

The following are special projects approved by the New York Board of Managers. While they cannot be paid for from the regular budget, clearly designated gifts toward any of these projects will be gladly accepted and forwarded by the Treasurer of the Society (Headquarters' address on page 2).

Printing of Bible School Textbooks. (Urgently needed in Marathi) ...	\$2,000.00
Gospel Tent for Camp Meetings and Evangelistic Campaigns ...	1,000.00
Movie Projector, for new outreach in Library ministries ...	600.00
Good News magazine (includes weekly Sunday School lessons, and is very helpful to pastors and laymen). ...	100.00
Christian Light of Life magazine for new literates. (subsidized to keep subscription rates low). ...	500.00
Colportage work—to move literature out to the villages ...	500.00
Vehicle for the D. W. Capps—urgently needed to replace an early vintage carry-all. ...	3,000.00
Children's books for Reading Room in amounts of \$5 and \$10.	