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COOL SEASON 1971

The INDIA ALLIANCE MAHARASHTRA

RESTFUL CONFIDING

Earth's skies are dark! Distress and agitation
Fill hearts and homes in almost every land;
War, with its wounds assails nigh every nation;
Grief, care, concern are felt on every hand.

Why should it be? Cry out the souls in anguish;
Why should it be — when God is on the throne?
Why should it be? lament the hearts that languish
In grief whose depths are read by Him alone.

Where find we rest? Where gain that calm confiding;
Peace for the mind, and stillness for the soul?
Where — save in Him — yes, in Himself abiding
Whose kingdom rules e'en while earth's war years roll.

There find we rest — with problems still perplexing!
There find we peace — a refuge 'midst the strife!
There find we calm — with myst'ries still sore vexing!
There find we all — just in Himself, our life!

— J. Danson Smith

BELATED SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM



THE MAHARASHTRA FIELD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 1971

Front Row, left to right: REV. & MRS. R.F. PERRET, DR. PETER O'BRIEN, (GUEST SPEAKER), REV. & MRS. G.L. CARNER

Back and Middle Rows, 1. to 7.: REV. & MRS. G.F. VANDEGRIFT, REV. & MRS. E.F. EICHER, REV. & MRS. D.W. CAPPS, REV. & MRS. J.L. AMSTUTZ, REV. & MRS. FRED ROTH, REV. & MRS. C.H. DYKE, JR.

THE INDIA ALLIANCE

NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MAHARASHTRA FIELD
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

COOL SEASON 1971

NUMBER 2

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

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WHAT IS ESSENTIAL ?

CHOICE GLEANINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL SURVEY

"Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. . . . understand what the will of the Lord is."
Ephesians 5:15-17

In the purpose of God, and in His grace and mercy, we, the smallest group ever gathered for such an occasion since 1893, are met for the 80th Annual Conference of the Maharashtra Field of the C. & M.A. In all the years since the little North Berar Faith Mission joined the new International Missionary Alliance, there has never been such a small group of missionaries on the field.

It has been a very difficult year in our work but not without encouragements. At the time of our Annual Conference last year the open rebellion against the Synod Executive Committee, with fighting in some of the local churches, had paralysed the Synod. In December of 1970 the General Assembly of the Christian and Missionary Alliance met here in Akola. The Commissioners of the Amravati Church Council refused to attend the Session and sent a letter to the Assembly seeking to discredit the officers of the Maharashtra Synod. The Commissioners from Gujarat took a very serious view of this rebellious spirit and requested the General Assembly to take action. As a result, the Maharashtra Synod was given a directive to dissolve the Amravati District Church Council, until such a time as order could be restored in that area. The Synod Executive Committee proceeded as requested, and all the pastors of the Church Council in that area were informed that they were no longer the appointed pastors of the churches. The former pastor of the Amravati Church refused to turn over the charge of the church to the Synod President and, instead, went to court about it. In the meanwhile, however, most of the local churches in that District indicated their desire to be reorganised, and so the Amravati District Church Council is once more functioning.

The position of the opposition has been clarified and polarised. It is now seen that the heart of the rebellion involves only a few individuals. The majority are concerned that the fighting be stopped and are showing a desire for spiritual renewal. But in the midst of this strife a new element of opposition has entered. Two renegade Christians from outside have come into the area with the declared purpose of drawing off our Christians to start a movement called the New Apostolic Church. They are very obviously well financed with foreign funds, and with gifts of money freely distributed, and offers of lucrative positions to some to be pastors, they have succeeded in getting small groups in Khamgaon, Akola, and Bhandaraj. However, this new disruptive force is not without some blessing. It is showing up those who have no genuine Christian faith and who are willing to follow any leader for a few rupees, and it is awakening many of our people to a new sense of responsibility.

We have now completed one full year of work in the great metropolis of Bombay. This work has tremendous potential. How thankful we are that the Vandegrifts were granted visas and came to Bombay in time for the Lewellens to hand over without delaying their regular furlough. Bible study cells in Vikhroli and Mulund are continuing while we still work with the Emmanuel Church in Byculla and the Dehu Road Church of the Poona area. The active and earnest youth group in Emmanuel Church has been a great encouragement. We could expand in many directions in Bombay, but to run anything in this big city takes money. It also calls for added personnel. May the Lord give wisdom and clear leading as we plan for Bombay.

Never before has the Maharashtra Field been so depleted in missionary personnel. The lack of sufficient staff is now seriously affecting all our work. What should we do? What

(Continued on page 5)

... FOR REVIVAL WE PLEAD

Focal Points from Missionaries' Annual Reports

MERCY DROPS FALLING

Our hearts were encouraged recently, when we heard of the Holy Spirit working in hearts of several of the church group which is recognized by the Synod. This group took part in the "Chain of Prayer" being participated in by the Evangelical Fellowship of India and the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India. The primary result of these prayer meetings here was a mighty conviction of sin and a spirit of repentance.

The pastor said that never in his experience had he seen such conviction of sin and a spirit of repentance in meetings in Amravati. Our hearts cry out to God for a mighty working of His Spirit in our midst.

— ELMORE AND ALICE EICHER, AMRAVATI

MEETING IN SOCIAL HALL

The Emmanuel Congregational Church, located in Central Bombay, has merged with the Alliance. At present they are meeting in a social hall (see picture on right), but have a Building Fund started and hope to have a permanent place of worship soon. There is a very active youth group who meet in our home each Sunday evening. The pastor of this church is Rev. S.S. Batelu.

Please pray for this group, that they may have a live witness in this area, and grow spiritually and numerically.

— GILLETTE AND
MARY VANDEGRIFT, BOMBAY

*Present Meeting Place
(Sometimes Ground Floor,
Sometimes Second Floor)*



OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITY

We have had opportunities for ministries in the local church and the larger village churches. Recently we ministered in the Christian Home Festival at Khamgaon. Faith spoke at the special evangelistic meetings held for the girls of our Khamgaon Girls' School. She has also had the heavy responsibility of conducting the Maharashtra CEEFI Sunday School examinations. There has been severe physical testing during the year, but the Lord has been our strength and our song and shield.

However, the year has not been without a burden for a spiritual revival in our churches.

— DONALD AND FAITH CAPPS, MURTIZAPUR

SHEPHERDS DESPERATELY NEEDED

The sudden death of Pizabai Lavhale of Pimpri reopened our eyes to the great need of pastoring the scattered Christians in the rural areas.

The circumstances that surrounded her death made us realize that there are scores, yes, hundreds who are not getting the spiritual food they desperately need. Much fault lies at their own door, but the church needs many more to visit them and instruct them.

While helping to organize the chain of prayer for the village congregations we began to realize that we could not be sure that certain individuals of years ago are really alive in the Lord. Some villages like Deulgav, Kutasa, Kautha and Lasur, where there used to be large Christian communities, are now mostly memories of better days.

We long for and cry to God for a heaven-sent REVIVAL.

— HERB AND BETTY DYKE, JR., AKOT

LOOKING TO THE LORD

On the whole, we feel encouraged about the attitude of the student body generally. It appears that there is an increasingly evident atmosphere of questing after the will of God.

This is especially important in the lives of our Alliance students, as their immediate future is uncertain. With all this uncertainty, not only upperclassmen, but also a good percentage of freshmen do give some evidence of a real desire to serve God. We are grateful for what growth in grace has taken place. We are looking to the Lord, that He might pour out the Spirit of His presence and of His concerned compassion upon the School, that all may be filled with fire divine, to bear witness to the transforming power of God.

— JONATHAN AND ANNA LOU AMSTUTZ, NARGAON BIBLE SCHOOL

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL, Con't from p. 3

should we not do? Obviously, if this small, weak group of missionaries is to work effectively in a field with such a large potential for service, we must carefully consider our priorities and concentrate on what is essential. What is essential for now? What must be set aside to enable us to concentrate on the essential?

I believe that we must seek to promote massive prayer support through every channel possible, particularly the churches in America.

Here, our efforts have not been what they could have been.

Never before has it been brought home to us, as it has now, that our problems are basically and primarily spiritual problems. The outpouring of the power of the Holy Spirit could change the picture overnight. Do we really live and plan in the expectation of such an event? Do we expect a miracle? To answer these questions honestly will be to acknowledge that this revival must begin in our own hearts. Are we prepared to pay the price?

NEWS BITS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

* At the recent Annual Conference a rising vote of love was given to Rev. & Mrs. G.L. Carner, Mission Chairman and Hostess for the last three years, as they will leave us for furlough in June 1972, D.V.

INCOMING CHAIRMAN

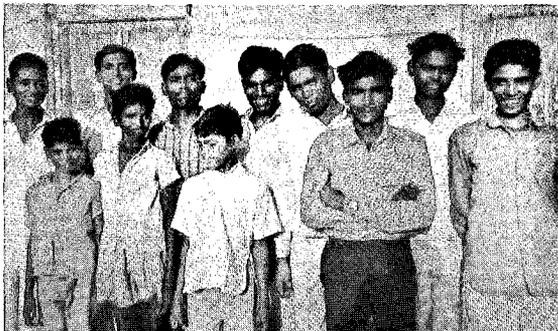
* At the same time a rising vote of confidence was accorded to Rev. & Mrs. R.F. Perret, our newly nominated Chairman and Hostess. May the Lord bless and strengthen them for their new responsibilities.

BAPTISMS

* Three Short Term Bible Schools for new converts were held during the last few months. One at Akot, where ten people were baptised on March 20th. Another one at Anjangaon ended with the baptism of 30 persons on April 24th.

The third one was held in Murtizapur, at the close of which fourteen adults followed the Lord in Baptism. One couple and a young lady were from the Banjary tribe. We commend these "babes in Christ" to your faithful prayer.

Group of Boys and Young Men Baptised at Anjangaon on April 24th, 1971.



Miss Mary Ann Wehr

KODAIKANAL SCHOOL

* We thank the Lord for bringing Miss Mary Ann Wehr to serve as 5th grade teacher in the Kodai School. She is a member of the Bethel Alliance Church in Hamilton, Ohio. Pray for her ministry as well as for the School, as moves are afoot to change it into an International secular school in view of the dwindling number of missionaries' children.

HOUSEPARENTS

* Rev. & Mrs. L.F. Stengele, Houseparents in our Alliance Hostel at Kodaikanal, look forward to another year in their ministries to the hostel children, trusting to guide them aright in their spiritual, physical and educational aspects of their lives. They also have responsibilities in the School and Sunday School Departments.

TAFTEE

* Theological Education by Extension is a growing movement which began about 9 years ago in Latin America. Now it has come to India and other countries in Asia. After attending a two-week Workshop in early July and after much prayer, footwork and committee meetings, the Bombay Center of TAFTEE was

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launched in August with 29 students. These include professors, teachers, government workers, who are active, mature Christians, but want some theological training right where they are, in order to help them become better servants of the Lord. Educationally they range from High School graduates to Ph. D's, and theologically from High Anglicans to Pentecostals. Rev. G.F. Vandegrift is the Dean and also teaches a course in Systematic Theology. Please pray for this ministry.

SYNOD

* Continued and earnest prayer is requested for the Maharashtra Synod, that the Lord may prove all sufficient to meet all their spiritual and financial needs during these days of crisis.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

* Special Revival Meetings will be held in Akola from November 15-21, 1971, with Rev. Philip Teng, President of the Hong Kong Alliance Church, as the main speaker. We pray that a deep and lasting work of the Holy Spirit will be accomplished during those days.

AKOLA LIBRARY AND BOOK SHOP

* As of December 1, 1971, Mr. V.K. Karmarkar of the National staff is appointed Acting Manager. He will be responsible to a missionary Directing Counsellor.

BIBLE SCHOOL TEXTS

* Correspondence is presently going on concerning the reprinting of three Marathi text books. One is a Bible Survey, the second one theological, and the third one on Bible Geography.

COOL SEASON 1971

AFTERTHOUGHTS TO MY INDIAN SUMMER

This last summer our field was blessed for the first time with a team of four Alliance Youth Corps girls. Their enthusiasm, messages in song and other ministries were a rich blessing to us. Here, one of the team describes the impressions she gained while here for a few weeks:

To express in a few words what I have experienced inside me this summer is not an easy task. I say this because God has taught me a wealth of lessons. By His grace and patience I have learned some, but others are brand new. Thus, being introduced to them I can watch for their reappearance and continue to build on this foundation of learning.

In traveling throughout Maharashtra I have seen the unpleasant along with the beautiful. When I first arrived, the unpleasant sights seemed to dominate my attitude, but the Lord has been faithful. I thank Him for taking my first impressions and molding them into a willing attitude if He should direct me back to this or any other land.

The need and opportunities for service have become plainly evident as I participated in village work with the Dykes and worked with the students at Khamgaon and Nargaon. Service with the Vandegrifts in Bombay has once again driven home the point that there are thousands of crowded cities in our world where the Gospel must and CAN be shared.

I can truly say that this has been the most valuable summer I have yet had. Its effects on my life have begun to manifest themselves and will, I trust, be used by God to shape my future.
— Judy Campis

*Left to right: Judy Campis, Joyce Meerdink,
Nadene Kanneman and Doreen Bergen.*



PRUDENT INVESTORS' CORNER

We whole-heartedly commend the following special projects of our Maharashtra Field to the careful consideration of all who are placed in positions of stewardship of the Lord's money, either in Churches, Ladies' Prayer Bands, AYP's, Sunday Schools or as individuals:

1. **\$25,000** are needed for the **BOMBAY KEY CITY PROJECT**. A great work with tremendous potential is being established in that Metropolis these days. The G.F. Vandegrifts are living in rented quarters at present. This amount would secure a good-sized apartment, and provide them with a better foothold. Rents in that Port City are prohibitive.
2. **\$25,000** are also required for the relocation of the Bible School and to upgrade it into the proposed **MAHARASHTRA BIBLE COLLEGE CAMPUS**.
3. **\$2,000** are earmarked for **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION**. As an explanation please read "TAFTEE" (short for "The Association For Theological Extension Education") on page 7.
4. **\$2,000** will also finance the production of several much needed **BIBLE SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS** in Marathi. Work on this has begun.
5. A **MOVIE PROJECTOR** could be used to great advantage among College students and Young People, as well as in the Akola Library for special evangelistic efforts. **\$750** will purchase it.
6. **\$100** will purchase four or five **CASSETTE TAPE PLAYERS**, needed in the Akola Library. This would enable many visitors to quietly listen to a gospel message after browsing through the daily newspaper.
7. Small amounts of **\$5** or **\$10** are always welcome to purchase new **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** for the Akola Library.

All who are interested in helping with any of these projects are requested to send their contribution to the Treasurer, Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, NEW YORK, NY 10036, clearly stating which project it is for. Please refer to the names of projects as listed in capital letters and bold type.

POINTS WORTH PONDERING

- * Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust.
— Oliver Wendell Holmes
- * He most lives who most lives for others. — Selected
- * I am not a reservoir. I am a channel, attached to infinite resources.
— E. Stanley Jones
- * Be contented with what you HAVE, never with what you ARE.
— Anon.