The Christian and Missionary Alliance

HEADQUARTERS—260, West 44th Street,
New York City.

Founder........................................Rev. A. B. Simpson
President.....................................Rev. H. M. Shumant
General Secretary.........................Mr. W. S. Poling.
Secretary, Foreign Department..........Rev. A. C. Snead.

God has prospered the Christian and Missionary Alliance as an interdenominational missionary movement standing four square for the Word of God, until today its representatives preach the Gospel in thirty-six different languages, six of which have never before been employed by any messenger of Christ. There are now 493 missionaries in the ranks of Alliance workers, and 1,171 men and women in the twenty countries where our missionary work is being carried on are giving their full time to helping the missionaries in proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance depends directly upon God for the meeting of all needs of its great work. Its method is to give fullest information as to the needs of the work, and report how funds are used. Individuals are never solicited, but are left to their own free co-operation as the Spirit prompts. There is no endowment, no surplus is maintained, and no debts contracted.

HEADQUARTERS FOR INDIA—Alliance Mission, Akola, Berar, C.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee—Rev. Wm. Moyser.

"The work of the Alliance in India is administratively united into one mission, though linguistically it is divided into two separate sections. East of Bombay lies the Marathi language area where, stretched along a latitudinal line of over two hundred miles are twelve main stations located in two political divisions, viz., East Khandesh and Berar. North of Bombay lies the Gujarati language area in the political division of the same name, where seven main stations are found in a group, radiating in three directions from the great center of Ahmedabad."

There have recently been added the two new North India Border branches, at present under the same administration. One is at Mardan on the Afghan Border, and one at Pedong, Darjeeling District, on the Tibetan Border.

There are 65 missionaries working in these various areas, with 55 Indian workers.

The India Prayer Bell is issued from time to time from the Headquarters in India, and is sent by the missionaries to their friends to stimulate prayer for India, and for the Alliance work in this land.

Special Day of Prayer the Last Friday of each month

"Moses my servant is dead: now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Joshua 1:2,3.

The year 1926, with all its privileges and opportunities, has passed and gone for ever. Our victories and failures are things of the past. Our sins are under the blood and our victories are registered in heaven. At the threshold of this New Year, may God Himself say to each one of us—Arise, go forward, and over into a land of peace and plenty. May we Foreign Missionaries, Indian workers and members of our different churches resolve, by the grace of God, that this year shall be one of progress and growth in service, trust and faith in God.

Let us incite our people by precept and practice, to a more generous purpose and policy of giving more for the spread of the gospel. We may contribute to the work in five different ways, viz., by person, progeny, proxy, prayer and purse. Giving is a duty, a privilege and a means of grace. Let us also urge our churches and people to definitely consecrate some time to the giving of a testimony to their own people, for we are His witnesses. In our churches, let the missionaries lead the testimonies on the line of victory over sin and besetting sins, as well as testifying to the saving and keeping power of salvation. Let the fountains of praise and testimony be kept open, so that there might be an overflow into the barren wastes of sin and death all around us.

William Moyser.
SIGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS

In the voyage from New York to Bombay one sees many sights and gathers multitudes of impressions. On the way our ship stopped at Gibraltar, and we were glad for the opportunity to visit the fortifications tunnelled and chiseled by the British in that great mountain of stone. While going through those immense galleries, in and out of the tunnels, up and down spiral stairways, into great cannon chambers and finally, coming into the open near the top, we understood why it was an impregnable fortress. Recounting and considering facts, we remembered how it is written of One who is the believer’s impregnable fortress. He is our High Tower; our Stronghold; our Rock of Defence where in safety we may hide.

Numerous fascinating and interesting scenes and impressions were enjoyed en route from Gibraltar to our destination. Our boat docked in the morning, and by noon we were through the customs. The plan for Akola did not leave until that night, so we took advantage of the time at our disposal and visited the market. Here, I found it was customary for the person of the merchant to grace his display of wares by sitting in the midst. I’ve since discovered it is quite usual for the Mission cook to decorate the table with his person while he prepares the nourishment for our frail bodies.

When we left Bombay, except for local colour and distinctly local fragrances, I might easily have concluded we were leaving Grand Central in New York or Union Station in Chicago, for the open prairies at home.

India furnishes much food for thought. There is much to interest, and much, very much, to call forth pity and compassion. The multitudes are wandering, they know not where, without any knowledge of the Good Shepherd. Continue in the ministry of intercession for the heathen of India.

NOTES OF PRAISE

At the time of writing we are located at our out-station, from where we visit the neighbouring villages. In past years, some of these villages manifested strong opposition, or what was still worse, blank indifference.
to the preaching of the gospel. In one village especially, it was difficult to find one anxious to hear the Story. Now, things have changed. This time we arrived there on the market day about twelve o'clock noon and proceeded to the market place where we met the headman of the village and a few other high caste people. Very soon we had a fairly good crowd and for about two full hours the Indian woman, and I, continued singing and preaching the gospel of Christ to a most attentive and respectful audience. By this time we were somewhat tired and the sun was hot, but the headman and others urged us to keep on. We then invited them to ask questions and for almost another hour we reasoned from the scriptures, that Christ was indeed the only Saviour from sin, while they testified that their idol worship brought no deliverance from sin and no rest to their souls. What a glorious opportunity to recommend Christ as the all-satisfying One!

After selling a few gospels and hymn books and being kindly saluted, we returned back to the outstation, tired, but exceedingly rejoicing for the open doors and the open hearts. Keep on believing; God is working. Praise His Name.

P. HOBBESON

MONSOON INCIDENT

The second and most destructive flood of the Sabarmati river reached Dhokla in September. Word had been sent beforehand by the Government to our people at Anhali, and accordingly our young teacher was up at daybreak to investigate. The flood was soon seen rushing upon the little village. The people were aroused, and in a short time the pond and all the fields were flooded. The entire 'new section' of the village was also flooded and the waters began to sweep towards the old and higher village. With the exception of a few extraordinary high spots, this part also would have been under water in a short time. Many of the people put their cots on trees and stayed there during the flood, while others ran off to the village of Transad. The water subsided after two days, but nearly all the crops were spoiled.

At this time it was impossible for me to reach the village. One man attempted it on horseback, but he
and his horse were almost swallowed up by an unseen hole in the water. Pray that God will turn the destruction of their poverty into spiritual riches.

AUGUST HELFERS

BHUSAVAL GLEANINGS

For months we have been going to the home of one of our church members, where, with two godly sisters, much prayer is being offered for the salvation of their brother. He is a guard on the railway. Formerly, all his spare time was spent in the neighbour's house drinking, thus injuring himself and neglecting his praying sisters at the same time. But, recently, our hearts were greatly rejoiced, when this very neighbour attended our English service, and in response to an earnest appeal from the preacher, came forward and gave himself to Jesus Christ. Will our friends please pray that this man might stand true and that he might be the means of bringing our sisters' brother to the Lord?

Prayer is also requested for a young man who is resisting the Holy Spirit. He is under conviction and is very miserable. He scarcely ever misses an English service. A short time ago, his wife gave her heart to the Lord, and is now very much burdened for her husband.

CHARLOTTE RUTHERFORD

A CONTRAST

While attending the Vernacular Final Examination, the certificate of which enables Indian women to find positions as teachers, my attention was drawn especially to several young Hindu women, whose shaven heads, unnerved noses and ears, and arms bare of ornament told me they were widows. Their faces were marked with lines of care, sorrow, and responsibility. How I longed to make them acquainted with the Friend of sinners; to lead them to the One who cares and, upon whom they could cast their every care and burden! As I watched them give their very selves in answering those questions, and at the end of each examination, saw their great concern and fear, lest they might have failed, I couldn't help but praise them for their ambition, courage and perseverance in striving against such great odds to prepare themselves for positions, wherein they could virtuously earn a livelihood for all the members of their respective households.
"A people's character never rises above that of its gods." How God transforms a life when that life begins to follow Him! As I sat there and looked into the faces of our twelve Christian girls candidates also for the examination, I couldn't help but lift my voice in grateful praise to the living Saviour, for letting the light of the gospel dawn within their hearts, thus saving them from the yoke of Hinduism. While comparing our girls with the Hindus and reckoning something of what salvation had done for them, I thought, "Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods... doing wonders." 

Myra B. Wing.

ONWARD AND FORWARD

We praise God for the working of His Holy Spirit in the Mehdiaabad-Matar district. Several backsliders have been reclaimed; two men have given up smoking and the wives of some of the men—who are not Orphanage products—are ready for baptism.

The Christians of two of the district churches have organized themselves a volunteer preaching band, and every Sunday night conduct meetings in their own village. Last March, they agreed to give an entire week to preaching and distribution of gospel portions.

The brethren of the Nalagam Church have started a fund for the enlargement of their house of worship. At this place the services are attended by the heathen also, and one of our Indian workers conducts a very promising night-school, which is being attended by grown-up, uneducated caste people.

Thirty pupils, mostly caste people, attended the Godassar night-school, where they receive not only secular instruction, but teaching from the word of God.

The young men from Yasa Church in company with the resident evangelist, attended a large Mohammedan festival for the purpose of distributing gospel portions and preaching Christ.

Pray that God's grace might be manifested in these brethren as they seek to exalt Christ.

W. H. Lewellen.
SONGS IN SUFFERING

"God will take care of you through all the day."

"God will take care of you, over all the way."

This is the song I heard two of our little boys sing when I visited the Leper Asylum in Ellichpur over a year ago. I had just walked through the streets of the village, stopping at each door to see most pitiable human forms. Inch by inch, feet, hands and noses were falling away. One could only wish that the Lord would take some of the more advanced cases out of their misery. It seemed to be a place almost devoid of hope. But such thoughts were soon put to flight when little Sunput and Gunput came to us and sang so sweetly the above quoted song.

"It put me to shame to see the sweet, simple trustfulness of those little lads in such surroundings. Of course, the Good Shepherd never forgets His lambs! He has proved faithful, and honoured their trust.

To-day, these two boys are among the happiest boys in the world, for they are freed from the asylum having been declared symptom free by the physician. How we do praise God for this manifestation of His loving care!

BERTICE E. STEED.

DAILY HAPPENINGS

After a service held in a section of Amriti City, a Mussulman came up to the Indian evangelist and confessed, "I am a Mussulman in body, but a Christian in belief; thus admitting his desire to become a follower of Jesus Christ." He wants an English Bible, so he must be an educated man. Many have come from the college and schools for English Bibles and Testaments and have shown a real desire to search the living Word of God. We thank God again and again for the Word preached in the weekly market. Recently we preached to a large crowd of people in this splendid centre, and quite a few listened attentively throughout the three-hour service. One young man seated on a high horse purchased a New Testament, but unlike Zacchaeus, he did not come down. Pray for him and all others who have the Word of God in their hands, that the living Truth might penetrate the darkness of their hearts.

TILMAN AMSTUTZ.
IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON.

Last week, going an hour’s ride down the line, I found myself seated with a Mohammedan woman and her mother-in-law. The young mother, although only sixteen years old, had her second child of almost two years with her. The introductory conversation centered about the baby, and then I asked where she was going. "My daughter-in-law is sick for months, and no medicine helped her, so we started out a month ago on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Now she is well; our sins are forgiven and we are going home." In course of conversation, she further told me she had spent one hundred dollars and had lost her solid gold wrist-band somewhere on the way, but all this she counted as naught, in the realization of every Mohammedan worshipper’s dream, a visit to Mecca. Then I said, "Before you went to Mecca, did you use profane language?" "Yes, many times." "When you return home, will you again commit that sin?" "Oh, yes, and sometime again we will go to Mecca and be forgiven!"

My heart was saddened, and with a longing for that soul’s deliverance, I related briefly and simply, the story of Redemption by the Cross. She listened attentively and then asked, "How do you worship Christ?" Great joy filled my soul as I told her of the living God who desires to dwell, not in temples made with hands but in our hearts cleansed from sin. He enables us to worship Him in spirit and in truth. In a little while I had to leave them, but my thoughts and prayers still follow them, as I ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate their minds and hearts and dispel the darkness of sin, fear and unbelief.

EDITH BERGTOID.

WATER! WATER!

From the days of old, wells have played an important part in the history of the Eastern races, and good water is of priceless value in the dry, parched lands of the Orient, where it is as scarce as it is valuable.

Eight years ago the writer was stationed at Samand. There was no well on the Mission property and no good water within a mile of the bungalow. We were of
necessity, obligated to our neighbours who had wells and these wells gave forth salty water! Good water is carried in a tank on the freight train running between Ahmedabad and Virangam—a distance of forty miles—for the accommodation of the railway staff on the line. Through the courtesy of the Sanand stationmaster, we were permitted to place a small tank on the station—ten minutes walk from the Mission bungalow; and in this receptacle, the porters very kindly filled a limited quantity of water from the large tank for our use.

Finally, we dug a well on our compound, but to our dismay, the water seemed to be in touch with the Ocean!—salty, brackish and unusable. Then a boring was suggested. At a depth of eighty feet, there were gushes of water—but alas! it was still salty! Then the engineer said "deeper yet." Down, down they bored for nearly three weeks and at one hundred and thirty-six feet, water rose in the pipe—good, sweet and fit to drink. Now we have an abundant supply of water and an up-to-date American pump—all for $250—Praise! Praise the Lord!!

SAMUEL KERR.

ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Moyser have been making a circuit of the Gujarati stations since early in December. Missionaries and Indian Christians greatly appreciate their prolonged residence amongst them, and all have profited by their fellowship and counsel.

Miss Peter, one of our indefatigable seniors, got a bad toss when the wheel of the buggy in which she was driving through the jungle, struck an unforeseen clump of roots, and unceremoniously deposited Miss Peter on the ground with a dislocated ankle. She was obliged to spend Christmas and a few succeeding weeks in the Hospital, but is now on her feet again for the Master.

Furlough time has come for Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth on the Berar side and Mr. and Mrs. Lewellen from Gujarat. These two families sail from Bombay on February 17. Pray for their safety on the high seas and a profitable time in the homeland.
Temporarily vacant chairs and small beds in several missionary homes were joyously filled when our children—rosy-cheeked and sturdy—returned from school for Christmas vacation. School re-opens on February 10th. Prayer Bell readers, please remember our little ones, thus separated by an approximate 1,500 miles from their parents, as well as faithful Miss Lothian, who so lovingly and unselfishly cares for them throughout the year.

"With thanksgiving" for the good health of the missionaries: the opportunities of the touring season; the few in the Valley of Decision and the thousands of gospel portions sold and distributed, continue to supplicate God on behalf of India's millions, that ere long, there may be a turning to Him that will bring joy to the workers and glory to His matchless Name.