AFTER FORTY YEARS

BY LAUREN CARNER

These are days of glorious opportunity in India . . . days that challenge the Church of Christ throughout the world to earnest and united prayer! The souls of thousands of outcaste people are involved in the battle that is being waged between the forces of light and the powers of darkness. There are evidences of a turning to Christ from among the “untouchables”. The future is bright with the potentiality of a great spiritual revival among these lowly people. Here is just one story, among many others which might be told, of what God is doing in this dark land today.

Forty years ago two Alliance missionaries, Mr. R. D. Bannister and Mr. C. W. Schelander, in the course of a gospel tour in Darayapur Taluka, camped at a little mud village called Saydapur. Then, as now, the place of dishonour, the outskirts of the village, was reserved for the abode of the one family of outcaste Mahars residing there. To this family as well as to others these missionaries ministered the saving truth of the gospel, and purchased milk from the head of this family, refusing to accept from him, in his extreme poverty, his generous offer of milk without pay.
In the years that have intervened since that first missionary visit, Tulaji, though in touch with some of God's servants, has stubbornly refused to break his allegiance to his Hindu gods, and, following the conversion of his two sons (their picture appears in the India section of the Alliance Missionary Atlas), he meanly persisted in persecuting them.

During the past touring season, while helping Mr. Fred Schelander with the work in his extensive district, I had opportunity to visit Saydapur—on this occasion to accept the hospitality of Tulaji's grown-up son, Poonaji. During my brief stay there, I made my way to old Tulaji's lowly thatched hut. Noticing an idol altar in a dark corner of his little mud home, I urged him, in the course of our conversation together, to give it up for the worship of the living God. This he promised to do.

A few weeks later, at the Mahuli subha (convention) for village Christians, after giving definite evidence of his determination to become a true follower of the Lord Jesus, he strode boldly into the waters of baptism along with a large family of Mangs (untouchables of a still lower caste) whom he had formerly loathed as utterly defiling. The courageous witness of his Christian sons had not been in vain. He entered with joy into the blessing and fellowship of the subha, and on the closing day, upon leaving the camp, he buoyantly
lifted his feeble voice in the glad shout, "Shri Yesu Krist Maharaj ki Jai" (Victory to The Great King Jesus Christ!). As I walked with him through the burning heat, over the dusty road leading from the camp grounds to the railway station, he gave utterance to this convincing testimony: "Sahib, when my father died I did not weep; when my wife died I did not weep; but during the last few days I have been weeping." Christ had triumphed. This old, cold heart that for forty long years had firmly resisted the wooings of the gospel was "strangely warmed" by the melting power of Divine Love.

The Calf That Answered Prayer

By RAYMOND H. SMITH

We know, in a coldly intellectual way from the book of Jonah, that God is concerned about cattle, but the Indian villagers, with their refreshingly simple faith, put this to the test and get some strange answers to prayer. In a little village on the banks of a "sacred" river, where for years a little band of believers has withstood outward persecution and inward betrayal, a farmer had a buffalo cow that was unproductive. She had never given milk, and aside from the fact that two big leather sacks could be thrown across her broad back and water tooted up from the stream, she would have been entirely worthless.
So when a Christian woman offered to buy her for ten rupees (about $4) the farmer was ready to sell.

"What are you going to do with her?" asked the village people. "She will never give milk." "I can use her anyway to haul water," replied Jennie, "but the Lord who blessed Hannah and Elizabeth can do something for a buffalo, too." Jennie well knew that God answers prayer, for the ravages of leprosy in her own body had been stayed through her fervent supplications.

So, amid the jests of the village folk, the bargain was made, and Jennie had the buffalo. The picture on this page tells its own story, for here is Jennie and her buffalo, and the beautiful white calf that came in answer to her prayer. The nice rich milk helps in the family diet, and Jennie, now and then, carries on her head to the weekly bazaar at Murtizapur, sixteen miles away, the butter that is made. The money obtained helps to pay her nephew's school fees in Akola, and gives her something to put in the collection every Sunday when she, in this way, thanks God for His goodness to her and her house.

Talk of the questions of the day—there is but one question, and that is the Gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with divine revelation.

—W. E. Gladstone.
“These Little Ones”

BY RAYMOND H. SMITH

About a hundred village people recently gathered in Murtizapur for a sabha for the Christians of that part of the district. Nineteen of them were baptized at that time. Some had been considering the step for years, but had held back for one reason or another. The Lord gave them courage to take this stand, for which we are thankful and rejoice at a bit of gathered harvest. But just as Christ’s baptism was followed by His temptation, so the enemy will seek to discourage these little ones. Please pray for them.

We have already heard of one village head-man who has refused one of these new Christians his rightful government post, so we know the enemy is aware of the stand they have taken.

Study the Pictures

Wheat Harvest in India. From the soft black soil in which it grows and ripens, the wheat stalks are often pulled up by the roots and the clinging bits of earth shaken from them, as in this picture. Where the earth is more firm, sickles are used. Bringing in the
Sheaves gives you a picture of the group of converts recently baptized by Mr. Smith and Mr. Chintaman Gowae, the pastor-evangelist of the Akola-Murtizapur District. These were baptized at Murtizapur, during a local convention held there. A Baptismal Scene shows one of these converts standing in the water, about to be baptized, with Mr. Gowae and Mr. Smith on either side of him. Mr. E. F. Eicher sends us the picture of Rev. Paulus Kilare and Our Most Recent Convert in Chandur District. Remember this young man and all these “grains of wheat” in prayer. The Calf that was Answer to Prayer is explained by Mr. Smith and the story is that of a miracle of God’s love for His children. Read it and believe that God cares for His own. Mr. Lapp has sent us a beautiful picture of A Marathi Women’s Bible Class, with Mrs. Lapp, Mrs. Raghnath Khandare, and Miss Karner, teachers, in turn, of those who have come to the Mission House in Amraoti to learn of the things of God. Where the Ganges and the Jumna Meet shows one of the great pilgrim shrines of India. Mr. Lauren Carner visited this place when a million or two of pilgrims gathered there to bathe in the dirty “holy” water!
NEARING COLOMBO,
ON BOARD Sango Maru,
March, 19, 1938.

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we have skirted the western shore of India southward, with the dimly outlined hills visible in the day-time and the twinkling light-houses sending out their friendly rays to us at night, India has still seemed near, but a few hours will bring us to Colombo and then India will soon be far behind us. It has not been easy to pull ourselves away from friends, either Indian or missionary, and in the case of Elizabeth Gustafson it has meant separation from parents. But it gives us joy to think of seeing again the faces of loved ones and of meeting those in the homeland who have been faithfully upholding us in order that we might serve in the land to which God has called us.
Though we are sailing under the Japanese flag we are very conscious that above it is Jehovah-nissi “The Lord our Banner” (Ex. 17: 8-15). We have the promise, “Behold, God Himself is with us for our captain.” Hence we have nought to fear though we are sailing under the flag of a belligerent nation.

As I look back over the past term, it is with thanksgiving and praise to our Lord for all that He has done and been to me. Though I have often failed Him, He has been faithful. It has been a joy to work among India’s children. I trust you will continue to pray for our boys and girls that they will early give their hearts to God and consecrate their lives to serve Him.

Yours in Him,

Bernice Steed.
Note

In the March—April number of the BULLETIN the editor’s faulty memory allowed him to leave out something which should have been mentioned, with reference to the hill-station property which is being purchased for our missionaries in Kodaikanal. We said that “The money paid . . . came from the sale of a property on the plains” and that we “still owe $4,000” on it. We ought to have mentioned, also, that a faithful friend of the Mission, who once was one of our missionaries in India himself, and therefore knows well the need of such a home, has been sending $100 each month toward the balance due. We greatly appreciate this gift through him and the Lord’s kindhearted children who give with him to hasten the Lord’s coming. Besides, our estimate of the balance at $4,000 was too low. At the old rate of exchange it would be correct but with the impoverished American dollar it would have been more nearly correct to say that we still owe $4,525. Please continue to pray that all this debt may soon be paid.

The Music of a Christlike Life

Heaven received an especially bright spirit early in the month of last December, when the Lord called home Miss Carrie Peter, one of our faithful veteran missionaries. Miss Peter had retired from the field because of advanced age and feeble health and was living in Glendale, California. After weeks of suffering, God lifted her above the pain and weakness, which the doctors thought ought to be there, while yet He kept her waiting for the home-call. For days before she left she had such victory and joy that her friends marvelled. Yet this was but the fitting finale to the sweet music of her whole life. She loved India’s people with Christ’s own love and gave her all for them. Those of them who knew her and are God’s children miss her keenly. Soon the glad day will dawn when our Lord will come and bring with Him “them also which sleep in Jesus.”
Have you Remembered . . .?

To pray for missionaries for Gujarat—especially for the Mehsana and the Dholka-Dunduka Districts, with their hundreds of thousands of souls?

To pray for workers, Indian and foreign, for the great districts of Berar, so inadequately provided with messengers for Christ? The touring season just closed reveals an unusual interest in the gospel, many enquirers, and a goodly number of baptisms. Did you have a part in this by prayer?

To pray for the Young Men’s Bible Training School to be opened in June at Nargaon, East Khandesh; and for the Young Women’s Bible Training Class, started at the same time, in connection with the Mission School at Khamgaon?

To pray that the way may open for like schools for the Young Men and the Young Women in Gujarat? Have you prayed for God’s choice of missionary leaders to take charge of these schools and for God’s special blessing to be upon those already chosen for the schools now to be opened?

To pray for the Summer Bible Schools—one in Gujarat and one in Berar, for our Indian workers?

To pray for consecrated Indian Christian leaders who will know how to guide and teach the many converts from the outcastes in various parts of Central India?

To pray for several young people, married or single, for our Alliance Mission in India, to fill the places made vacant by the departure and retirial of old missionaries?

To pray for a few Indian men with gifts of leadership and piety, for our Christian community? We want men consecrated to God who love their fellows and who will be able to inspire them by their example and love to advance to greater things for Christ.
It is usually not so much the greatness of our trouble, as the littleness of our spirit, which makes us complain. —Jeremy Taylor.

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He, therefore, is the devout man, who lives no longer to his own will, or the way and spirit of the world, but to the sole will of God; who considers God in everything, who serves God in everything, who makes all the parts of his common life parts of piety, by doing everything in the Name of God, and under such rules as are conformable to His glory.

William Law.
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