One of the Indian evangelists whom God is graciously using and greatly honouring in these days is Bhaktasingh Chabra. This man of God travels all over India and gives himself in untiring service to the ministry of the Word. His heart is full of love for the children of God everywhere, and his passion for souls is akin to that of the Apostle Paul. Our mission was favoured recently by a visit from him with four of the young Indian men he has gathered about himself for the work of evangelism. In the recent annual convention of our Indian Churches held at Murtizapur, Mr. Chabra was the principal speaker. He has a good command of English though he is more at home in his mother tongue, Hindustani. Rev. Shau D. Bower interpreted for him, and since the voices of these two brethren are pitched in almost the same key one could close his eyes and easily imagine, as he listened, that one man was preaching in two languages, Hindustani and Marathi, uttering sentence by sentence in the two languages, alternately.

Mr. Chabra preached also in Akola, Khamgaon, Bodwad, Bhusawal and Jalgaon. On each occasion his message came with unction and fervour and God spoke through him in convicting power.

We believe the secret of this brother’s power lies in two things. First, he loves and honours the Word of God from Genesis, chapter one, and verse one, to Revelation, chapter twenty-two and verse twenty-one. He told us how God had given him love and reverence
for all of His Word. Second, he lives a life of communion with God. The one night he was in Akola, he came to us after days of strenuous service in the convention at Murtizapur. That day was scorchingly hot and he and his friends arrived in mid-afternoon. He rested a few hours and then went to the church and preached for an hour and a half, or longer, with as much fervour and energy as if it were in a bracing climate. And none of us who listened to him got sleepy, though we did perspire profusely in the hot atmosphere. At half-past eleven that night he closed the meeting. He had eaten no dinner, but after the meeting he was given food in the hospitable home of the pastor, Rev. Mugganrao Jelaji. At half-past twelve these brethren came to the Mission bungalow and went to rest. They had asked me to awaken them in time to catch the early morning train to Bodwad, where our brother was to speak to the students of the Marathi Training School. The train was timed for ten minutes to six. Before five o’clock, I went to awaken these dear men of God and found them up and washed and dressed and on their knees, each by the side of his cot. I did not
disturb them and when I went at train time to take them to the station they were still on their knees. As we stood on the station platform beside the train waiting for the whistle to announce the moment of starting, we had a few minutes to spare and Mr. Chabra said, “Let us have a little season of prayer”. He prayed as one used to being in the presence of God and when he left us we felt that we had been favoured of God to have had the privilege of meeting such a dear Christ-like brother. Pray for this choice child of the King, once a proud highcaste Hindu but now a humble Christian, that he may be kept and used still more mightily until the King comes; for he is among those who love the Lord’s appearing.

God’s Delays Are Not Denials

By MISS JULIA E. DERR

When Miss Beardslee and I came to Khamgaon to work last November, Mr. Hartman told us of a group of several villages where there were inquirers. After prayer we decided to concentrate on these four villages and went to camp beside the largest of them which is Wasardi. We spent much time in prayer for guidance and the Lord answered prayer by healing the sick in several instances and this gave many openings and helped to convince the people of the truth of our message.

One day in December a little lame boy limped into one of Miss Beardslee’s meetings and listened intently while she told of the Lord and His love and that He not only healed people while on the earth but hears and answers prayer even now, and she told how He had healed her when her knee-cap was broken some years ago. The boy left before the meeting was over and try as she would Miss Beardslee could not locate him then. Several weeks later when the Bible-woman and I were having a meeting in that same locality I was led to testify of the Lord’s healing power. Several times during our talk we were interrupted by urgent requests to visit a home nearby and we went to see what was wanted. We found this same little boy.
Our hearts ached as we saw his suffering. He was very emaciated and huge ulcers on his thighs discharging constantly made it impossible for him either to sit or lie down with any comfort. But he had heard our messages and had learned the songs and stories that had been taught the other children and firmly believed that the Lord Jesus would heal him. We sat by his side on the floor for a long time fanning away the flies that tormented him and telling him more about the Lord and His love for little boys and all who are in need. We assured him that Jesus could indeed heal him and then prayed with him, committing him and his need to the Lord. After that some of us went to see him every day or two. His parents are members of the dyers’ caste and his mother told us that he had been a strong, beautiful child until about a year before when he fell on a brass hook while playing with some other children. It pierced his thigh, poisoning it and causing an ugly sore, and no doubt the ignorant remedies the neighbours advised helped to aggravate it until it had affected his whole system. We prayed much for
the child, Raghunath by name, and were much burdened not only that he might get well but that he and his family might be saved. Our constant contact with him opened the way for us to give the Gospel over and over again to the neighbours who always gathered

in the house when we went to see him. The Lord did not heal him at once but the ulcers began to dry up and he was much stronger when we left. We are still praying for him and look forward to going back and finding him quite well.

So far no one has been baptised in these villages but many have given up idolatory and are praying to Jesus and at least one of them testifies everywhere to his desire to become a Christian. Pray for him as his wife is still afraid and holding back, though she was much more friendly before we left. We feel that the Lord has given us the
promise of a people for His name there in Wasardi and are continuing in prayer and praise for it until He makes it good.

Does God always answer prayer, even though He delays? Who of us has not been tempted to ask this? I have just had fresh proof that He does. Some fourteen years ago when Mrs. Auer and I were

![Photo of orchestra](image)

"The Orchestra"

R. H. Smith

In the Synodal Convention of our Marathi Christians, held this year at Murtizapur, Berar, this company of men, mostly converts from the outcasts, sang and played the instruments shown in the picture.

together in the Girls’ School here in Khamgaon, one of our older girls named Phuliwanti was home for several months and came back completely backslidden. Her influence over the other girls was so bad it was necessary to punish her. We prayed much for her and I was greatly burdened and wept before the Lord for her salvation. I confess I was bitterly disappointed when she left school utterly rebellious and bitter. Three years later while on tour in Amraoti District I ran across her. She had given up all semblance of Christianity and was married to a Hindu. When I went to see her she was bitter and hard and her Hindu mother-in-law sat close by to prevent my talking with her alone. My heart was very heavy and I just sat there and cried to the Lord to somehow overrule and bring her back to Himself. I lost
track of her again until the other day when Mrs. Schelander told me that she was saved in one of their Anjangaon Summer Schools and is now a radiant Christian. Imagine my joy when I met her last week and learned that she now wants to become a Bible-woman and serve the Lord she so long rejected.

Someone has said that God’s delays are not His denials, and His faithfulness in bringing back Phuliwanti has encouraged us to trust Him for a work in Wasardi and that many may be saved from among the over 170,000 Hindus and Moslems in Khamgaon District.

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**One of God’s Strange Permissions**

On the evening of May 10th, while in the hills at Kodaikanal, we received from Rev. Mugganrao Jelaji, pastor of the church in Akola, the following sad telegram: *‘Serpent bite, Nalini Died.’* Nalinata was the eldest daughter of Rev. and Mrs. M. Jelaji, whom we missionaries know familiarly as Mugganrao and Maggiebai. This sudden and tragic death of their beloved child is a crushing blow to our dear brother and sister and to the husband of Nalinata, Mr. Reguel Chavan, who is headmaster of the Boys’ Boarding School at Akola. Two beautiful little children, a boy and a girl, are thus bereaved of their mother, also Nalina’s three sisters and one little brother have come into their first great sorrow.

Nalinata was a very promising young woman of sweet and humble spirit, loved and honoured by all who knew her. She had accomplished what is rare among India’s women in that she studied and passed her matriculation examination while carrying on the duties of caring for her children and home, and was going on with further work of the same kind. We earnestly solicit the prayers of God’s people for the dear friends who have suffered this great loss. Our Lord Jesus can turn even tragedy into blessing.

> “Not now, but in the coming years—
> It may be in the better land—
> We’ll read the meaning of our tears,
> And then, sometime, we’ll understand.”
News and Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Kerr have toured faithfully in the East Mehsana territory during the past several months. They have not only gone among the people with the gospel, in tent work, preaching from village to village and from home to home, but have also secured a house on lease at the city of Visnagar where they expect to make their home and from there to work the surrounding territory. This is a real victory for we have sought for a long time to enter this territory but hitherto without success.

Just at the end of the touring season and at the time when Mr. and Mrs. Kerr were planning to move from Mehmadabad to Visnagar, our brother was taken very ill. A heatstroke, together with the wearied condition of his body, made it a serious matter and he was left in an exhausted condition, though delivered from the fever which accompanied the other symptoms of his illness. This
made it necessary for them to postpone their moving from Mehmadabad to Visnagar. They hope to rest a few weeks in the hills where William is at school and move at the beginning of the rains, early in July.

On May 10th, Mr. R. H. Smith sailed from Bombay for furlough. Mr. Smith has had a good term of service since his last furlough, working as District Superintendent of the Akola District, later as manager of the Boys' Boarding School at Akola, and more recently as Superintendent of the Marathi Bible Training School at Nargaon.

We are sorry to have to record that because of broken health Miss Conger was obliged to leave India before the regular time of her furlough. She sailed from Bombay on April 24th and left the shores of her adopted land with keen regret, though in a spirit of trustful submission to the will of her Lord.

The hot season is here again with all its normal ferocity of heat. The temperature at Akola, Amraoti, Amhedabad and other places is bobbing up and down around 110 degrees. This, with hot winds and dust storms, makes it hard even for our Indian brethren who are more or less inured to their native climate. How grateful we are that nearly all of our missionaries are permitted to be in the hills for a few weeks till rain comes and settles the dust and cools the atmosphere somewhat.

Summer Schools are being planned for Gujarat and Berar. The workers and Bible-women and some of the teachers will gather for about six weeks of intensive Bible study and for the study of other subjects calculated to make them better ministers of the Word of God.

In the interval between the two semesters of the Summer Schools, special sessions for inspirational messages and seasons of waiting upon God in prayer for the deepening of the spiritual life will be held.

A new county is being added to our Marathi territory. The Scottish Mission which adjoins our Mission on the east has offered us the taluka of Arvi, which is virtually new territory, for evangelism. Mr. Gerald Carner, whose district joins with this county, spent some
time in touring there, in the touring season just closed and gives a most encouraging report concerning the people's attitude toward the message of the gospel, especially among the outcastes. May we not expect fruit from this field in the near future?

The number of enquirers reported in the last touring season has been very encouraging. There has probably never been a time in our work in India, especially in the Marathi area, when so many of the outcaste villagers were favourable to the message of God's love and grace.

With the promising signs of harvest there is, of course, the opposition of Satan. In some cases there has been cruel persecution. One very promising convert was so harassed by his outcaste people, while he was desperately ill with fever and therefore hardly responsible for his actions, that he yielded to their pressure and gave some kind of recognition to the old, dead idols he had so recently disavowed. Then his tormentors refused to give him any food, on the ground, ostensibly, that the gods would now take care of him! The result was that his weakened body succumbed and he passed away. There was no one near him to pray for him or to encourage him in this tragic experience, but two

"Holy Man"

One of India's myriads of such. The conch shell he is blowing is used to call to "prayer".
Mornings and evenings especially the women gather at big public wells such as this to draw water. This well is at the edge of Khamgaon, just near the Girls' Boarding School.

of the Indian brethren reached him a few hours before his death and heard his sorrowful confession that he had bowed to the useless idols and knew not what would now happen.

The usual epidemics of smallpox have ravaged many parts of India in recent months.

To Those Who Pray

Pray that God's protection in spirit, soul and body, may be given to Mr. and Mrs. Kerr as they enter the East Mehsana district and make their home in this new and needy territory. Especially pray that they may be kept in health so that they may be able to do the glorious though most difficult work of introducing the Lord Jesus to hearts that are dark and dense in their utter ignorance of Him.

Pray that God may greatly use Mr. Smith during his furlough, besides refreshing and renewing his wearied body and mind.
Pray for Miss Conger that God may heal her broken body and direct her into His best for her in the days to come.

Pray that the Summer Schools to be held in the rainy season—July and August—may result in revival for the evangelists and Bible-women.

Pray for the special meetings to be held in connection with the Summer Schools, that God’s Word may be quick and powerful in its searching of hearts and bring life and blessing which will result in larger fruitfulness in the lives of our evangelists and Bible-women, as well as in the lives of the Indian pastors and missionaries.

Pray that God will give us souls, and soon, from among the many villages of Arvi taluka, the new country for whose evangelization we are now responsible.

Pray for the enquirers who are contemplating becoming Christians, that they may pay the full price of truly repentant hearts and thus be ready to receive the gift of eternal life.

Pray for those who are being opposed by their pagan neighbours as they turn towards the light, that they may not falter in their confession of Christ but may wax strong in faith because of the grace given them. In this way they will be used of God to win others to the truth.

“All earthly things with earth will pass away;
Prayer grasps eternity; pray always pray.”