The India Alliance

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THE REV. AND MRS. E. R. CARNER

who together have given 76 years of service to India.
There is always compensation in the doing of that which it is our duty to do. There is double compensation if that which we have been called to do is also that which we like to do. For the past six years it has been one of our duties to edit our little Mission paper, The India Alliance, the Bulletin of the Alliance Mission in India. We say it has been our duty to do this, because we were asked to do it by our Missionary brethren, but it has been a pleasure as well as a duty. To take the articles sent us by our dear fellow missionaries and, sometimes, give the titles and sub-titles which the modest authors had left out; to use an editor's prerogative of "boiling down", where we thought the condensation would add flavour and increase the vitamin content of the dish (though in this, we confess, we had often misgivings, for we well know that in a world of "many men of many minds" an editor's mind has only limited rights); to insert an appropriate picture here and there; to send the material off to the printing house, along with an occasional editorial and bits of Mission news and subjects for praise and prayer; to read the proofs returned to us and send them back again; to wait, then, till the finished product came through the mail to us, and went in the same way to many places over the broad earth, with its message of love and its appeal for sympathy and prayer—to have a part in this has been a cause for thanksgiving and praise to our heavenly Father.

Now we hand over the task to abler hands than ours and do it just as gladly as we accepted it six years ago.

Brother K. D. Garrison, who has been Chairman of the Mission in past years has just returned from America, after a furlough and fruitful ministry there, and is again the unanimous choice of our missionaries for the place of chairmanship of the Mission and of the
editorship of *The India Alliance Bulletin*, while Mrs. Garrison will be the efficient manager and gracious hostess of the Mission Headquarters here in Akola. No one has been more glad to see these brave hearts return to India than my dear wife and I have been. Also we welcome most heartily the other comrades who have returned to take up again their part in our glorious task in this great battlefront of God’s war area. These are Rev. A. C. Eicher and Mrs. Eicher, Miss Myra Wing and Miss Agnete Hansen. Mrs. Nulah Phillips was with this little company of soldiers of the Lord of Hosts, as a new recruit, and has taken up her work in the Ramabai Mukti Mission, with the wholesome and inspiring zest which is the admiration and delight of us rather fagged old-timers. Her first task is to make Marathi “walk” (to use the idiom of the language) and this, we hear, she is doing with unusual skill.

For all these comrades we ask your faithful and trustful prayer. No one knows how the enemy of God hates us for daring to come for Him into this land, which He loves for the sake of the jewels which He has here for us to find and fight for, against the powers of darkness—no one knows except those who have found and have fought for such jewels.

My dear wife and I now turn our faces homeward for our fifth furlough. On our lips there is praise and in our hearts there is gratitude to the God of all grace who has given us, counting our united years of service, 76 years of work for India and in India. This, of course, includes the years of deputation work and special service while home for furloughs. To crown our joy we have two noble sons, saved and called of God to follow the Lord Jesus in lives of sacrifice and service, especially for India. The older one, with his capable wife and their lovely boy, goes now with us on his first furlough. The younger one is here with his dear companion and sweet little daughter, to carry on for our Lord Jesus in our absence. Our cup runneth over. We can say with George Herbert in his version of the 23rd Psalm, though we may be inaccurate in our quotation, which is from memory—

This matchless goodness which is mine,
    Shall measure all my days,
And since it never shall decline,
    So neither shall my praise.
Opportunities and Adversaries

By LAUREN CARNER

With the busy round of mission, church, and school activity which is inevitably the ordered schedule in Akola, the missionaries here, whether at the Headquarters bungalow, in the district, or at the school, always find other tasks awaiting them in addition to the discharge of their regular duties. The large Christian community with its many urgent needs and the extensive district with its two great taluqs, offering wondrous opportunities for evangelism in these crisis days, are a constant challenge to the united effort in prayer and the ministry of the Word to all the missionaries in this station. For the never-tiring labours Mrs. Ramsey exerts through the ministry of personal evangelism in Akola city, for the counsel and help which father and mother give to the church, for their great encouragement to us in our labours in district and school, and for Miss Davies' work in the Sunday school of the Kadan Christian community we praise God and here record our sincere appreciation.

During the past year our devoted Pastor, the Rev. Maganlal Jelaji, assisted by a loyal, spiritual remnant of laymen and laywomen, has continued his difficult task of shepherding the large membership of the Akola church. By the time this report is off the press, this, the Mother Church of the Alliance in India, will have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding with a special jubilee convention. This occasion will once again give us opportunity to recount God's many mercies extended here down through the years, to praise Him "for all the saints who from their labours rest", to take inventory of our present position, and to look forward in faith to triumphs with Him in the future.

Last cold season, following unhindered efforts in village evangelism in three different camping centres in the district, we concluded this part of our work with a union "subha" or camp meeting on the borders of Anjangaon, Murtizapur, and Akola districts. Village Christians from nearby villages in all three districts were present, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schelander and Mr. Schlatter of two of the districts mentioned very helpfully co-operated with us in this effort. At the close of the "subha" there were several baptisms including a nice little group from Akola taluq proper—the first in a number of years. Among those in this group was a young man who, at the time of his baptism,
assumed the Christian name of Paul. He entered and arose from the waters of baptism with great buoyancy and joy. Following his baptism he was most severely persecuted by his fellow villagers and especially by the members of his own family, and in the hot season that ensued when he was taken seriously ill with a deadly fever his family forcibly dedicated him to an idol. They left him with nothing to eat for fifteen days, trusting the idol to feed him. Towards the end of his illness our Indian evangelist with difficulty obtained permission from his parents to visit him but it was too late for he had already lost consciousness, and that same evening his soul passed on into eternity.

From what we could gather from his Hindu friends we believe that he maintained his faith in the Lord Jesus to the end, and this is why we hope some glad day to meet him again in that land which is “fairer than day”. In the mean time this young man’s Christian companions in the same village, despite this fell blow from the enemy, have not renounced their new-born faith in Jesus Christ, and two of them—young Gopal and his wife—have gone to the Bible Training School for a year of study which will better fit them to return to the “habitations of cruelty” to witness, in their simple way, to the power of our Risen Lord to conquer sin and death and all the powers of darkness. Pray for these and others like them who are turning “to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven”.

Mehmedabad-Ahmedabad and Mehsana

By SAMUEL and JANE KERR

Several years ago, one of our veteran Missionaries introduced her report by saying, “Variety is the spice of life”, and we too at the end of this present year full of various activities would corroborate that quotation. Our appointment, at the beginning of the year, was for evangelistic work in Mehsana district, in the Southern section of which we were privileged to do the first Missionary work of the Alliance many years ago. Until a permanent residence was located in the new area, we remained at Mehmedabad and continued the oversight of the fifteen churches in that important church area.

Our ministry to the churches has been for the most part advisory as the Christian communities are usually very well taken care of by their pastors.
We are very happy to report the organization of another Alliance church at Maninagar, just on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city. For the last year and a half members of the Christian Housing Society at Maninagar composed of Irish Presbyterians, Methodists, Church of England and the Alliance have been endeavouring to constitute themselves an independent church under the President of the Society, an ex-Alliance man, and now Church of England, but the movement was evidently of man and so came to naught. Our Alliance people pulled out of the Union and are now happy under the care of the Pastor of our big Alliance Church. Another item for thanksgiving is the fact that the majority of our churches during the past year have exceeded their quota of pastors’ support. Baptisms from the Christian communities still exceed those from the heathen world, but we are glad to report that last Sunday Rev. Nathalal baptized six converts from heathenism and expects to baptize another six before Christmas. For these new believers we thank God.

The pernicious propaganda of the Roman Catholic agents in the Mehsedabad and Kaira districts has made it imperative that we open primary schools, with Christian teachers, in several villages of these districts. Their appeal is to the material side of life and they subsidize as far as possible the upkeep of all the children who are victims of their wily schemes. To offset their influence in Mehsedabad town, the wife of one of our church members there has been conducting a school for low-caste girls in her home.

Up until the middle of April, the most of our time was spent in the villages and towns of Mehsana district. We made three camps and from these centres reached about one hundred and thirty towns. The friendly attitude of the people and their eagerness to hear this, to them, “New Story” filled our hearts with encouragement and hope for God’s blessing on our ministry in this district. In several places, caste Hindus asked us to pray for them that they might understand God’s plan for the cleansing of the human heart from sin. Gospels were readily bought, and on several occasions our daily sales exceeded three hundred portions of God’s Word and at the end of the season we had disposed of nearly five thousand gospels.

Roads in this section are very heavy with deep sand and our five-year-old car experienced both difficulty and humiliation in crossing over river beds where we had to fall back several times on a double team of Kathiawar bullocks to pull us through the sand.

While we moved about the country, we kept a keen lookout for
a place that might be suitable for permanent residence up here. Disappointments were many, but finally we found the shell of what had been a good brick and mortar house built forty years ago by an Ahmedabad business man, but only occupied for about a month. It appears he discarded the idea of living up here when the railway was built and the town began to grow in the direction of the railway station, leaving the house high and dry, bare and lonely—all ready for our occupation at the end of forty years! Now it has been repaired and the Hindu house has become the home of Alliance Missionaries.

We would mention the encouragement and inspiration of the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. John R. Turnbull to both ourselves and our people. Mr. Turnbull has a burden of soul for the benighted Bhil Tribes on the borders of our own territory, and it was our privilege to accompany him on a tour through the hill regions where for well over a hundred miles North and East of this district these Bhil Tribes (aborigines) are housed in tiny hamlets of branches, straw and leaves. The greater part of these regions is entirely unevangelized and presents a great field for pioneer Missionary work.

Concerning our immediate work we thank God for the numbers who have been coming to the bungalow, listening to our message in the town and buying gospels, and we trust that our coming here may be effective, through God’s grace, in winning many of these precious souls for the Kingdom.

Open Doors and Open Hearts

By MISS H. FAITH CUTLER

“I have been away a whole month, and I set these young women important passages of the Koran to read and memorize and they have not even looked at the Koran, their minds have been engrossed in memorizing and reading what you gave them. In a few days my grandchild will pass her first ‘Id’, and for God’s blessing upon her, since her father is dead, her mother must memorize a set portion of the Koran. Now what will happen God alone knows!” This by the mother of the home in which we had gone to hold our second “Memory” class one Tuesday. It is true that her daughters, especially the older one and her daughter-in-law, had during the mother’s absence readily memorized Scripture portions and listened eagerly to Bible
truths. And the bereaved one’s heart was much comforted as she learned of the love of God revealed through His Son Jesus Christ.

It was with some trepidation that we entered the home the following week. But God had heard prayer. The mother was exceedingly friendly and after listening to some memory work she said, “Even though some of our neighbours are saying that we should not let you come because you will make us Christians and that we would go to hell, still we want you to keep on coming. Please do not stay away. You teach us about Jesus Christ who came from God, and so what harm could come from hearing you?” The daughter-in-law also said, “I tell them that you will be sure to go to heaven, and if we believe as you do we will go there too, in spite of all they say”. It is such and similar incidents that keep one ever conscious of the need of prayer.

Throughout the year we have been conscious of God’s presence with us guiding us each day. Feeling very unequal to so great a task as this large city offers, we waited upon God to reveal His plan. And in due time the doors for service began to open. Regular Sunday schools were started among Mohammedan and Hindu children and regular classes or meetings for Mohammedan and Hindu women in three different sections; two in the suburbs of the city and one in the city itself. Our united prayers and efforts to build up our city Church Sunday school have been owned of God. The membership has more than doubled its beginning number, and in each department, senior and primary, we have three classes. Also there is a growing desire to help in the “missionary enterprise”, and real interest has been evinced in prayer and giving. Our hearts are encouraged as we see God work in hearts of Christians and non-Christians, as we work with Him.

We are grateful for the supplies of picture cards received, but there is continual need for more, as the number of children instructed weekly averages between 200 and 250; of these about 85 are Mohammedan. About 60 Hindu and Mohammedan women are now being regularly instructed through the year. The Christian women of the Church evince a real interest in their weekly meeting at which we spend a profitable time in studying the Word and in prayer.

We request prayer for all these ways by which the blessed Gospel story is continually kept before children and adults, that soon many will yield to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit and be saved.

God has again given a ministry owned of Himself in our little
home. We found many hearts among the English-speaking people, hungry for Christian fellowship. They readily accepted the invitation to a weekly “Fellowship Meeting”. It is now looked forward to by many with real appreciation, and all testify to receiving much blessing. We covet your prayers for this ministry too.

“Believing hearts, the Holy Spirit’s power
May now expect to see, and prove and know,
‘Speak to the Rock.’ This is the day and hour
To ask, and to receive an overflow.

“So hard the hearts, so frozen, yea so dead,
The world outside sees only flinty rock:
Ye living members, speak ye to the Head,
The streams of love and mercy to unlock!”

Expecting

By GERALD L. CARNER

If we look at statistics it would appear that the Chandur area is unresponsive and unpromising, for another year has gone by without any baptisms and the church membership is depressingly low. But we have, we believe, reason for expecting something quite different in the near future, for although there have been some keen disappointments and some cause for real heartache, yet there have been, on the other hand, signs of God’s working, and promise of fruit in many places. Therefore we feel inclined to emphasize that we are expecting “great things from God”. May He give us the grace and strength to “attempt great things for Him”.

Our work this year has taken us into practically all parts of Chandur Taluka except the Southwestern area which has been given over to Amraoti district just recently, because it is more accessible to Amraoti than to Chandur. Our plan has been to succour and strengthen the few scattered Christians and to concentrate on the places where there is most interest. The results have been heartening. In Chandur itself, where the Gospel has been preached so faithfully these many years, there are now some enquirers. In Rajura to the South, where there have been enquirers for a number of years, a group is now asking for baptism. Near Dhamangaon, some young people who have grown up under the teaching of the Gospel from the Fletchers, Amstutzes and
Eichers, are now asking to be baptized. And in other places too, people are enquiring and asking for baptism.

But there is other cause for rejoicing. This year, besides our work in Chandur Taluka, the Lord has led us out into altogether new territory where there is great promise of an early harvest. To the East, beyond the Wardha river, outside of Berar, we are now responsible for a new area, Arvi Taluka, which has in it over three hundred villages, and in which as far as we can see, the present population has never before heard the Gospel. We found, upon entering it, large groups eager to listen to the “new story” and asking us when we would be back, and wherever we went we were to them an altogether new kind of people. They have never before heard of Jesus. Most of the month of April was spent in one section of this “pioneer territory”, and although “Satan hindered” and we had a great disappointment while there, yet we still believe that a group of Mahars will before long be ready to be baptized in the village near which we camped.

Without doubt there are open doors. And there are many adversaries, but we are in the service of Him to Whom is given all authority, Who is seated at the right hand of God “from henceforth expecting, till His enemies be made His footstool”. So in Him we rejoice, and with Him we are “expecting” for Chandur and Arvi.

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Bible School for Young Women, Khamgaon

By Miss B. Steed

“My heart standeth in awe of Thy Word. I rejoice at Thy Word as one that findeth great spoil”. This has been my experience and, I am sure, the experience of the Bible School girls as we have together studied the wonders of God’s Word. During a year when so much of the world has been in turmoil we have felt specially privileged to be able to study, in the quietness of our compound.

We started the year with eight girls, half of whom were in their third year of Bible study, but all studied in one class. When the second term opened in June it was necessary to start a preparatory class for village girls, that they might learn to read and write as well as study the Bible. A number of these girls were married as children in Hinduism. Later their husbands became Christians and went to Bible School for training. Though the parents are still in Hinduism,
the girls have been brought here and have learned to know Jesus as their Saviour. Four of these girls put on Christ in baptism on New Year’s day. The advance class also grew so that in all there were nineteen in the school at the close of the year.

I have marvelled at the way these girls from Hindu homes have grasped spiritual truths. Many times as they have earnestly prayed for the salvation of their loved ones I have seen a little pool of tears on the earthen floor beneath each bowed head. “Are they not in Thy Book?” Here is a translation from a letter from one who came in June as a new Christian, illiterate, but has made great progress in every way. “I am happy and well. I came here against your wishes. I have received not evil but the greatest benefit. If I had staid there I would not have received the true way and God’s Word and knowledge. You must also now receive Christ, for your days in the world are few. If you will receive Him, just as we are a family together so some day we may all be with Him. How happy we will be. I always pray for you.”

The Sunday school has offered splendid opportunity for some of the more advanced girls to do practical work. A number of the girls have taught classes, and two have done very good work as heads of departments and have taught preparation classes for the teachers of those departments.

God has worked in hearts and we praise Him for it. There are many lessons of life to learn even in a sheltered compound. During an epidemic of influenza only two girls were well, but they happily and willingly did all the home work and nursing. The enemy, of course, tries to hinder God’s work and there are battles to be fought and victories won. The girls’ testimonies have recorded many victories. Here is one: “I was looking one day at my little garden of pepper plants and they seemed to be drying up and only worthy of being pulled up and thrown away. Some time later I found that they had revived and were full of peppers. I saw myself as one of those plants fit only to be cast away, but God showed me His great love and has made me new. I want to serve Him and bear fruit for Him.”

Will you not hold these girls up in prayer? Three have been married and are now out in their own homes. Oh that they might share with others the food they have received. Two of the village girls will be going to their villages in May as wives of evangelists. Do pray that they may be used of God. In this land of great need we long to see the labourers going forth into the harvest field. Pray.
Young Women Baptized at Khamgaon on New Year's Day

The first four are from heathen homes.
Our report dates from December 23rd last, when we came to Murtazapur to take over the district which for several years had been worked from Akola.

Our first days were taken up not by Christmas festivities but with a small convention which had been arranged by the two Indian evangelists. During these days we baptized seven candidates who had been saved from heathenism. Three were living in Murtazapur city, one was the wife of a Christian man in a distant village, and others were from a village in which there had been no Christians. This showed us that there was a live church in the city, that Christians in the villages were interested in the salvation of their relatives and that the evangelists were bringing fruit from new sections of the field. Since this time eleven more have been baptized.

Soon after New Year we were in the district making short camps ministering especially to new Christians. The loud-speaker carried our voice to several villages within a mile of our camp. At times several hundred gathered to listen to the message.

One morning we held a meeting in a village where we met several folks interested in the Gospel. One of these men had married, and later deserted, a backslidden Christian. He was re-united with his wife and together with several others became the first-fruit of this village. A number of their neighbours are now candidates for baptism. Perhaps the news had spread here from a neighbouring hamlet where the Lord had performed two miracles of healing. A blind man received sight, a demon possessed woman was delivered, and since this time a man was healed from leprosy.

In the beginning of April we had the privilege of entertaining the Convention of the Marathi Synod to which all the Christians in this field were invited. About 500 Christians came from the villages. During the four days here many received a lasting blessing as an Indian brother ministered the Word.

We solicit your prayers for the work of this district. At present two Indian evangelists are ministering to 150 Christians and 100 inquirers. These are living in 46 villages. So scattered is the work that it requires, on an average, 8½ miles of travel either by foot or bicycle to reach a village. We are greatly in need of under-shepherds to care for these people between the regular visits of the evangelist.
Also in a number of places we need small, cheap, places of worship. One is needed in the farther end of Murtazapur city where a thriving group of Christians take an active part in the Lord’s work. These needs, together with that of Prayer for the regular Sunday school and Church work in the city, offer a task for our friends in the homeland. May we depend on your help?

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Malkapur District Report

By Mr. and Mrs. Tilman Amstutz

"The work is great and large, and we are separated one far from another."

As we think over the year a long list of names comes to mind of persons with whom we had an opportunity to deal in private places, either at home or else in the reading room in town. This ministry includes personal work with police officials, lawyers, teachers, down to men that come to our door as transients, and not a few beggars. In many cases these callers were discouraged, mostly all without hope, and thus we could be a help to them in bringing them into contact with God and a new hope. Among them is a tailor who has come regularly for weeks inquiring the way of salvation, and attending our Sunday services. Several boys and young men in a Mahar hostel have prayed earnestly for God to save them and their people.

The public evangelistic services this year have frequently taken the form of class meetings. Especially among the depressed classes the audience have taken part in singing and in the repeating of Scripture portions. The children are asked to retell the story which they do, and do it well, adding some colour to it in their own colloquial expressions.

Between November and April we made several camps in different parts of our district, mostly where we had received invitations to come and preach the Gospel. At Kaira, an old camp, the people received us kindly. They acknowledged that Christianity was a good religion. One old man even put it that salvation was a free ticket to heaven, but it must be accepted with all the conditions printed thereon. In this camp we dramatized the story of the three Hebrew children using a potter’s kiln in the place of the fiery furnace. The three boys as the three Hebrew children were a unique lot. One was a Mahar boy, one was a Mohammedan boy, and the third was a Kunbie boy, all three had learned to pray and showed a fixed purpose to stay true to
the Lord, come what may. We lifted one after the other and put them into the kiln, while the story was read from the Bible. The people who were opposed before began to realize that there was a God in heaven and before we left we had a group of wholehearted inquirers who had us come night after night to explain them the way of God more perfectly. In another place the men of the town called us to their own home to tell them the way more simply, after a three hour service in their town.

Later in the season we had many opportunities to preach the word by the use of lantern lectures and loud-speaker combined, thus drawing large crowds to listen to our message. In all our years of ministry this seems to have been the best for giving out the Word of God in testimony, especially in night meetings. We followed the path of invitation rather than taking villages by turn.

**Church and Sunday School Work**

The Church group has been shepherded by a faithful pastor. The elders of the church have supplied from time to time as the pastor can only come once a month, because he serves the Khamgaon Church too.

The women's prayer meetings and the cottage prayer meetings once a week have ever been a bright spot in the church work. Also the regular morning prayers and Bible readings have held us together as a band of workers. We lost a family or two by transfer. Offerings have increased and we are increasing the support of the pastor.

Student workers from the nearby Bible Training School have given new interest to the work. Their songs and musical instruments have been a real asset to the evangelistic services. Special meetings have also contributed a good share of spiritual support to the church. Rev. A. I. Garrison recently gave us good messages on prayer and faith, and many things were set right.

We have been given a great field, a great opportunity and a great responsibility. It is a great work to teach and disciple the large number who are at present kindly disposed, and who are favourable to accept our ministry. This is growing from a few individuals to larger groups of inquirers. But in these two, large counties there are yet thousands of people in whose villages lives not even one Christian. Please continue to pray for us for we are engaged in a great work and the territory is large and we are separated one far from another. "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."
"The Seed Should Spring Up"

By A. L. Garrison

"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the earth; and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how."—Mark 4:26, 27.

The greatest joy that comes to a reaper is doubtless that which contrasts with a sowing in tears. The period of patient waiting for the crop to mature ("should sleep and rise night and day"), seems to be designed by the Great Husbandman to store up a reservoir of prayer and desire in the labourer, which bursts forth in a great joy when he sees the fruit. "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear."

We recently had the joy of baptizing a young Persian Jew. After longing and praying for months for souls to be saved, it was a joy indeed to see this young man turn to the Lord with all his heart. He went to the Bible school at Bodwad to prepare for the Lord's service, and he is now preaching the gospel between his terms of study.

Amidst our sowing in tears a counterpoise of joy has come to us through the good reports received from the Birkenhead Bible School in England, of the good character and successful work of our dear Brother Hugh Cutler, who went from our congregation to study in that school. After his doing exceptionally well in his studies, we have word that he may return to us shortly.

Those who have ministered to our English congregation during the year in special services have all been a blessing and help to us. Miss Lottie Palmer, a railway school mistress from Lonavla, while taking her holiday with friends in Bhusawal was a blessing to our Sunday school, and young peoples' services, and in the ministry at the organ and in song. Daily prayer meetings were started through her zeal which have continued almost without a break in our home till convention time. This is doubtless a link in the chain of God's providences to give us the promised revival.

The visit of Brother John Turnbull for several days while he was in India afforded him an opportunity to preach the gospel, illustrated by his missionary pictures, to a section of railway officials and others who seldom come under the sound of the gospel. We were able to arrange to hold these meetings in the railway school, as also the gospel cinema pictures shewn by our Brother E. G. Lazarus of the B.E.S.T. Co.,
Bombay. These meetings drew large and interested crowds of the railway men and their families.

The messages and ministry of our Brother Bakht Singh Chabra, though he was able to be with us but a few days in April, were greatly blessed of our Lord. Work for God was done, the results of which are still evident. We hope he can visit us later again.

Among the number of our church group who have left us owing to retirement or transfer, was our church organist. Since then, in spite of her lack of robust health during the last few months, Mrs. Garrison has acceptably served as organist, and has also been a great help in the English Sunday school and in the work in general. She has had an invaluable ministry of prayer and been a helper to many, including myself.

If the teaching at the Bible School at Bodwad has been a burden it has been a pleasant one. It has likewise been a privilege and pleasure to minister at a number of conventions in the hills and on the plains. In January, following a convention held with friends in Bihar, eastern India, it was possible to make a trip, long contemplated, to the border of Nepal. I gathered considerable information concerning the work being done on behalf of that closed land by a number of missions working just over the border in British territory. The result of the journey was a deepening conviction that one of the greatest needs, while the land is still closed, is a Bible Training School on full gospel lines, to prepare young men to enter Nepal with the gospel when the door opens. I felt that I wished the Lord to make me worthy to have some part in conducting such a school, first in Hindi, and later in the Nepali language.

Several hundreds of rupees have been collected during the year to buy a plot for our greatly needed Marathi church building at Bhusawal. We need over two thousand rupees to get the site before we can begin the building of the church. Please help us pray in the money.

Our Indian Pastor, Raghunath Cutler, and his efficient wife continue to be used of the Lord to build up the Marathi congregation. He has given us a most interesting report of instances of salvation, repentance, and healing which have taken place in Bhusawal during the year, from which we copy the following incident.

"A middle-aged nurse used to read the Bible because she had formed the habit of doing so. She also used to read the newspaper. The newspaper convinced her that the world is getting worse. This distressed and discouraged her. Then she began to attend our services
on Sundays. The messages seemed to add to her distress and left her trembling. The growing evil in the world and in her own heart frightened her. She feared that she would not be taken to heaven with the holy people. Whenever we visited her, she asked question after question. The day came when she repented of her sins, and God came into her heart. She reads the same Bible, but it has become a New Book. It is precious to her that she reads and re-reads them. ‘The seed should spring up.’"

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**Annual Report for Jalgaon**

*By Miss K. P. Williams*

As one looks over the year just passed and realizes that a report must be given of the year's work how one longs to be able to tell of exploits done for the Master both in the church and in the district work.

One thinks, too, of those who have been greatly used in winning souls and rejoice greatly with them over the spoils won and the lives freed from the bondage of Satan and joy in their new found Saviour. Then one turns again to exclaim, “Poor barren Khandesh!” and then the question comes as it has so often come. “Why? Has the gospel not been faithfully preached here as elsewhere? Have our workers not been earnest and faithful, have they no burden for souls?” Jalgaon is known as a strong, yes, very strong Congress center, and one knows what bitter hatred there is and hostility to the Gospel among these people. In the schools the children and young people are diligently taught that Christianity is not for them, and that the books offered for sale are to be refused, unless purchased to be destroyed. We have had some examples of this during the past months in the villages, when boys have begged for books which we had to refuse knowing full well their purpose; and we had to witness, more than once, little bonfires of the precious Word before we realized what they were up to.

In one village near Jalgaon one morning while out with the Bible-woman we encountered a number of school boys who were determined to hinder our work, yelling and shouting as we attempted either to sing or preach. We were even pelted with stones and followed from place to place, but we were determined to go on with the work and not to allow defeat in the presence of Satan’s emissaries.
These are the Mohammedan women who found the Scriptures more interesting than the Koran. (See page 6.)
A SUNDAY SCHOOL UNDER A BUNYAN TREE
It has been our experience again and again under such circumstances to see the hand of the Lord at work; when others have been found who have eagerly listened to the Gospel; after which we leave for home rejoicing to know that again Jesus had conquered.

In a number of villages we are for the most part cordially received, and remembering God’s promises regarding His word, we thank Him for the many opportunities we do have of giving His Word to hungry hearts. One morning after our message had been respectfully listened to in the home of a goldsmith, we moved on to the home of an old Kunbi woman who gave us a place to sit on her verandah. Our hostess seemed very sad and she told us that she had nearly lost her sight crying over her son who had died ten years previously. Our hearts went out to her in her hopelessness and sorrow, and how she listened as we told her of the hope beyond for all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Others gathered, attracted by the singing, among them another old woman who wept as she pointed to her two little orphaned grandchildren, two beautiful little girls of five and eight years whose parents she said had died within a year. How thankful we were to have a message of hope for her also, which seemed to touch her poor old heart. Soon an old Brahmin lady, with a dirty white sari and minus a jacket, joined the company. We were struck with the bright intelligent face as she too sat down to listen. The Bible-woman told the story of the Saviour and how He gave His life to save us, and when she came to the resurrection the eyes of the old lady fairly danced and she laughed as she threw up her hands exclaiming, “He arose, He arose!” Our hostess looked at the other women and said, “There is nothing bad in this story they are telling”, then turned to us and invited us to return some afternoon saying she would fill her verandah with women to listen to our story.

Besides the church mid-week meeting we have a women’s prayer meeting led by the pastor’s wife, and this meeting is one of the brightest spots in the week’s services. The few women who attend know how to pray, and the presence of the Lord is very real there as they bring their praises and petitions to Him. Some of these dear women, though illiterate, are not ignorant of the things of God, and these days in their intercessions the King and Queen are never forgotten as well as all who are suffering in this dreadful war.

The face of old Sajibai shines with the light of heaven as she tells of what the Lord has done for her and her family. Another of His little ones, Sunder Bai, who sometimes accompanies the Bible-
woman as she visits the women in the town, glories in witnessing for her Master and telling the women of the joy that has come into her life since the Lord has saved her.

The Saturday evening Bible study class for young Christian women has been continued excepting during the hot season and these have proven seasons of help and blessing as we have studied the Word together. Not the least is the weekly service for the children. We have tried to make this more interesting by using the Manual of Visual Teaching. Some of the children take delight in having their lessons ready and all love to have the privilege of putting the pictures on the board. Two or three of the boys who thought themselves too big for this class have of their own accord come to help get the pictures ready, which has been a tremendous help. They have shown real talent in painting and drawing, but as you may imagine there is no lack of colour as these Indian boys dress up the kings and prophets and other figures. One said, "We have no money but we will help you all we can". This of course meant more than money to me, especially as not long ago one of these boys was inclined to give trouble. We are looking to the Lord for direct guidance to help us to lead them to a definite experience of salvation.

Dear old Saji-bai might be considered one of the least of His little ones, yet in what a real way has she come to know and love her Lord. She cannot sign her own name but she knows how to talk to these poor suffering patients in hospital about the Name which is above every name, and they invite her again and again to come and tell them more of this story. She goes daily to the ward to visit a little fourteen year old Christian girl, carrying her little treats to encourage her appetite and also taking time to encourage her in the Lord. A day or two ago she came to me with her face just beaming to tell me that Esther had gained a pound and a half. (Esther is from a West Khandesh Mission.)

Left again without a co-worker we thank God for the companionship of dear Miss Bushfield who has been a real source of help in various ways. Although on the retiral list she has a real ministry with the young people on whom she is dependent for reading and writing because of her failing eyesight.
The passionate plea of one of our faithful, veteran evangelists made at the last District Prayer Conference was, "Pray daily for the work of the Gospel and that people become saved". Rantnaji had told his fellow workers, "One morning I was discouraged. Then as I was walking to a village I met a man who said to me, 'Since I have been hearing your message I have come to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.' Immediately the gloom left my heart. The Lord Jesus spoke to me saying, 'There are others in these villages where you have been labouring who will be saved even though they fear to break with their caste by confessing Me openly'."

In his book, entitled *With and Without Christ*, Sadhu Sundar Singh makes the statement, "Many known as non-Christians are at heart true Christians". We trust this is true. Although our Saviour certainly cannot be satisfied with disciples who fear to own Him before the world, yet one is grateful for every evidence of the grace of God in ignorant and superstitious hearts. May God move upon the souls of men and bring them through until they cannot do otherwise but speak of the things which they have seen and heard.

This is the second year in succession that Viramgam has had very little rainfall. To the North large stretches have had no rain at all. In Radhanpur, Cutch, and their surrounding states, whole towns have been evacuated. Groups pass through Harij and Viramgam daily with their families and live stock in search of some place to make a livelihood. Only yesterday several of our laymen preached to such a group, resting along the roadside, who said they had had no food for three days and were only then preparing some bread from flour which had been given them. Some of these come from areas where there are no witnesses for Christ and their need, spiritual and temporal, is pathetic.

The Lord has been with us and has given much joy in preaching the Word from seven centers, besides the areas surrounding the four out-stations. In the State of Jhinjhuvara, located at the extreme West of our District, the evangelistic party found eager listeners. This sparsely inhabited area borders on the salty desert of Cutch. Its land is unproductive so the people are poor. There are only three schools among its villages. Numbers heard the Gospel for the first time. It was unusual to have women come in such large groups to listen when
men were preaching. During our stay the authorities gave special attention to our comforts.

A new out-station was opened in the native state of Dasada. The State comprises twenty-four villages, has about fifteen thousand inhabitants, and is ruled by four principal darbars. The ruling families and a considerable part of the inhabitants are Mohammedans. Dasada, the principal town, where David, the evangelist, lives, for years made its boast that there was not one Christian in the State, and they meant to keep it so. However, about three years ago the Lord used the Postal Department to open the door for the Gospel. Onesimus, a Postman, son of one of our evangelists, was sent there for duty. He and his family won the confidence of the ruling class. Now they not only have Christians living in the State, but have a messenger of the Gospel of Peace. Not all are happy about his coming to live among them, but some are giving him a welcome and show a desire to hear his message.

The friendly attitude of the people at Harij toward the Lord’s servants is most gratifying. Two years ago, when Savji first opened the out-station, the people were suspicious of him. Some said he was a detective; others, who knew something of Christianity, rumoured that he sought to defile them. Now there are a number in the town who are open to the Gospel and are reading the New Testament. Ranibai, the wife of the evangelist, too, has the confidence of the neighbouring women.

The Lord’s work among the children has its triumphs and testings. The teachers are sometimes slandered, and even brickbats and dust have been thrown at them. Frequently Hindu priests warn the parents not to allow their children to attend the classes. While some classes have had to be closed the Lord has opened others, so that day after day the Good Seed is sown in the hearts of precious boys and girls of idolatrous parents. Three of our seven Indian helpers carry on regular classes. There are twelve of these schools among non-Christians attended by about two hundred children. Where they have been continued for some time the children have memorized four Psalms, many other Bible verses, the Lord’s Prayer, Ten Commandments, and twelve hymns.

In the Sweeper quarters where a Sunday school has been in progress for over four years, Balla, a lad of eight years, was a regular attendant. He was attentive throughout the class period and later on would sometimes gather the children together and teach them what he
had learned. He would say to his parents and grandmother, "When I am grown I will never worship idols. I will obey Jesus God and pray to Him." Balla was ailing in health so his grandmother with whom he was living, sent him to his parents at Ahmedabad. There among his playmates he sang and prayed, and told Bible stories he had stored away in his mind and heart. The children enquired, "Where did you learn all this?" He would tell them, "An auntie came to teach us and I liked what she taught very much". The boys who were literate jotted down the songs and sang them with Balla, and began to learn to pray also. When anyone in the home became ill Balla would tell them, "Prayer to Jesus will bring relief more quickly than medicine. Come, I will pray", and he would kneel down by the sick one and pray in his simple way, and some were reported healed too through the lad's simple prayers. His parents were deeply moved by their son's simple faith in Jesus.

As time went on Balla's malady increased. After three days of intense illness, while lying with his head in his grandmother's lap, he very quietly and peacefully left this world. His face was joyful and filled with peace. When the near relatives began weeping they were told by them who had known the lad, "Why do you weep? Your boy has gone to be with the Lord. He was the Lord's boy."

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Hearts Opened through Answers to Prayer.

By MISS J. DERR

One day last July, at the close of the Sunday afternoon service, our evangelist, Kokane-master, came to say that a Hindu man was waiting in the back of the church to speak to us. When he added that it was Santu-master we went all the more gladly as he is a man for whom we have been praying for some time.

We soon learned that the reason for his coming to us was that his wife was very ill and he hoped that we would make arrangements for her to have a very necessary operation. We promised to visit them and after much prayer went to their home the next day. We found the little woman in great pain and learned that her condition was indeed serious. We felt led of the Lord to tell them of His ability to heal, giving them our own testimony as to miracles He has wrought for us and our dear ones. Then we prayed for her. When we went
back the next day we found the Lord had given her a vision. She
told us with a glowing face how the night before in a dream a stranger
had appeared to her and two other women. He stopped before the
first woman and asked her what she needed. She told Him that she
was sick, and He healed her. The second woman said she had no
need, so then He turned to Dagardi-bai and said, “And what can I do
for you?” She replied, “I have such terrible pain in my stomach”. He
touched her gently and at once the pain left her. She recognized
by His loving-kindness that this was the Lord Jesus of whom we had
told her, and a great peace filled her heart and still abides there. When
she awoke she was free from pain and very happy. For several days
she was much better, but her husband was fighting God and refused
to recognize His hand. After a few days the pain came back and in
his anxiety the husband insisted on an operation. This time we had
no liberty to urge her to stand against her husband’s wish that she
should go to the hospital. We helped him to make arrangements with
the Government lady doctor and promised to visit her. The doctor per-
formed an emergency operation which proved far more serious than
she had anticipated. Through it all the Lord did not forsake His
newly born-again child. She told us how she prayed and that when
she found herself in the operating room she just told the Lord, “Here
is the doctor on one side of me. Wilt Thou not stay on the other side
and hold my hand and help the doctor.” And truly the Lord did just
that. The operation, which was a very dangerous one, was entirely
successful and the recovery without a sign of fever or anything abnormal.

We have been to call on his family many times since she went
home from the hospital and are greatly encouraged by Dagardi-bai’s
happy testimony of the presence of the Lord with her and the marked
change in her life. Her husband recognises that the Lord gave his
wife back to him and is grateful to us for our help. But he is still
fighting conviction and unwilling to pay the price. Will you not
pray with us for his complete conversion? He is a key man in this
section, a follower of Dr. Ambedkar, the leader of the untouchables of
all India. He goes about lecturing among them in the villages and many
of them are watching to see what he will do. We feel the Lord brought
us into this close touch with this family, and are looking to Him for
Santu-master too to be saved.

Last year when we came into this district Mr. Hartman told us
of a group of four villages where there were inquirers among the un-
touchables. We spent the touring season among them and feel that
there are some who will come out for Christ. All the people of these
villages were very friendly and many visited our camp. The evangelists
spent many hours dealing with the men who came to talk and ask
questions about Christianity and its claims, while we met the women
and children. When we first went there, being strangers, we scarcely
knew where to start and waited upon the Lord for guidance. In answer
to our prayers a young high-caste man came to ask us to visit his wife
who was very ill. The Lord answered prayer for her and she had a
speedy recovery. This opened many doors to us among the high-caste
people. Other cases of healing were a means of confirming the Word
and we felt the Lord worked definitely in all four villages. We want
to return to these people this coming season to follow up the work.

The church work has gone on as usual under the faithful leader-
ship of our Indian pastor, the Rev. Dowletrao Bansod. Our Easter
convention for Malkapur and Khamgaon Districts held here was a time
of real blessing, and the joyful spirit among the people was very
marked. One feature of it was the sunrise prayer meeting, Easter
morning. The people met very early and marched, singing as they
went, to the top of a hill just outside the town. There as the sun arose
they had a time of praise and prayer. A liberal offering met the
expenses of the convention and left a balance.

Mr. Bakt-Singh Chabari was with us for a few meetings in April,
at which time several met the Lord in a new way, and their changed
lives bear testimony to the genuineness of the work done in their hearts.

There has been a marked increase in the giving of the church
which has greatly encouraged us. Offerings have gone to the Bible
Society and for the Jubilee Convention in Akola besides which the
regular church expenses have been met with a small balance.

During the rainy season much of our time was given to Bible
teaching both in the Worker's Summer School and the Bible-women's
Training School. Bible classes were also held for the Christian women,
and children's meetings conducted. Besides this we did some visiting
among the homes in the city. Among them was an old Moslem
neighbour woman who was suffering intensely with an eye disease.
She found relief as we prayed for her in the name of Jesus, and now
they pray only in His name and are reading the New Testament.

We are grateful to God for His faithfulness during the past year
but we long for a greater turning to Him from among the 171,000
people in this vast district during the coming year. He is reminding
us of His testimony regarding Abraham, that he staggered not at the
promises of God through unbelief but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. Will you not stand with us in faith for great and mighty things among us here?

‘The Weapons of our Warfare are not Carnal’

By F. W. SCHELANDER

We have been just five years in Anjangaon, and perhaps a backward glance will help us in evaluating our present position. For two years there seemed no prospects of advance. Only utter indifference faced us everywhere. Worse than that we seemed to be losing ground as year by year we removed names from our rolls, with no new ones to take their places. We were left with only a small remnant, and were seeking desperately to strengthen the things which remained, to preserve intact if possible the few forces that were left to us. Every month of the touring season we made our regular circuit, exhorting and teaching the scattered Christians. If the Prince of the hosts of Jehovah had not been on our side the situation would have been irretrievable.

And then, suddenly, the enemy’s line seemed to weaken in spots. Right after the Conference of 1937 we noticed a striking change in certain parts of the district. On our very first monthly circuit the Christians rallied with new life and zeal, and before the year closed nineteen non-Christians were captured for our Lord Jesus Christ. Of those nineteen many were young men, some of whom entered our Bible Training School and are now well on their way to become junior officers in our ranks. Interest became manifest in many places. People walked miles to our house to ask for baptism. Calls came from more villages than we could personally visit during that touring season. Brother Lauren Carner came from Khandesh with his camp and staff, for a month, and helped us, but then his withdrawal again left us all the more unable to cope with the situation, on account of the additional points of contact he had secured. That was the last attempt we made to enter every opening. Since then, for these two years or more, we have had to content ourselves with attacking and occupying only the most strategic centers, leaving many other calls unanswered. Since then we have seldom preached in a town or village without first having been invited.
If at that time when the enemy's lines were so clearly weakening we could have transported missionaries and Indian evangelists from other fronts and massed them here for an entire touring season, what an attack could have been launched upon the devil's kingdom! The impact of such an offensive would have been felt far beyond the confines of this district, we are sure. But such sudden and drastic regrouping of all our mission forces, even for only a temporary concentration, was not then thought of. And our long-standing disarmament program had left us locally unprepared to attack on a scale anything like the occasion demanded. Due to a general shortage of funds, and hence also of workers, our staff of mission workers for two counties, with over five hundred villages, had been reduced to two mediocre men, both of whom had large families and home duties that prevented their operating far afield. To this day we are undermanned. Although at present we have four mission evangelists, Daryapur county, perhaps the most promising county in all the mission, has only one—an old man barely able to read and write. Akot county has three, but one of these is aged and sickly, and has been on leave almost half of this year.

In these circumstances we have been forced to rush into the fray any material we could find. We have renovated old dismissed workers and pressed them into service again; transient tramp preachers have been utilized to the fullest extent of their worth before being allowed to proceed. We have rushed raw recruits, converted only a few months, to our Bible Training School, and after only ten months there have put them into the front line. We are arming and training our civil population. This hot season ten evangelistic bands were manned largely by these lay Christians. Some of these bands penetrated far into the enemy's territory, and even the least successful ones doubtless served a useful nuisance value. Sometimes we have been unable to secure a first-rate Christian drummer for each evangelistic band. A good drummer is very important, for Indian music and Indian-style hymn singing are major factors in the preliminary work, designed to wear down the will to resist. In such cases we have taken the risk and have used Hindu drummers. We are glad to report, however, that in the majority of such cases it has resulted in the Hindu drummer begging for baptism before the close of the summer's campaign.

Some of our lay Christians, women as well as men, carry on independent guerilla warfare, being effective personal workers, in season and out of season. We have even conscripted labor, in that for the past
two hot seasons those of our domestic servants who were set free by our going to the hills were sent into the villages to teach inquirers and new Christians until we returned. We have just received much encouragement from the arrival of a contingent of our Bible School students from Bodwad. They will be with us for two months of field work before returning to their classes. We have grouped these young men into small, mobile units, and have assigned each unit several villages for special operations among candidates for baptism. Each group will spend about two weeks in a village with no other task but to thoroughly teach and prepare the families there that have already presented themselves for baptism.

It goes without saying that all these activities would have been absolutely impossible but for the far-seeing statesmanship of our Mission Chairman and Executive Committee, who have generously made available the money required for these various advance projects. And we thank you, kind friends in America, for the help you have given hitherto. For unless you had sent the money the Committee would not have been able to give it to us. May we beg you to continue shipping us munitions and supplies, as well as to grant us your increased spiritual support by way of the Throne? And remember that the battle we are fighting is your battle too.

In 1936 we baptized three persons, of which two were children of Christian parents. In 1937 nineteen were baptized, almost all of them in the last month of the year. The following year there were 80 baptisms, and last year 159. How many will you help us to gather next year?

Amraoti, 1940

By EARL and GRACE HABTMAN

We came to Amraoti in January 1940. We had hoped to get here sooner, but for various reasons were unable to do so. However, we do not consider the delay as time lost, for during that time we were able to help a little in the touring work in Khamgaon, and also in some building work in the Girls' School.

After reaching Amraoti we went out on tour as soon as we could, and so got in some touring before the sabhas (Marathi conventions) began. Our first stop was with the Schelanders in Rinmochan fair, in the corner where Anjangaon, Murtizapur and Amraoti districts join. Schelanders were there with their outfit, so we just came along
with our light touring kit and joined with them over the last of the heavy periods. This fair lasts four or five weeks, the week ends, especially Sundays, being the times of large attendance. The crowds come on Saturday and stay until Monday, leaving only shop-keepers, various kinds of amusements and a sprinkling of so-called worshippers during the week. The Schelanders come early and get their place—the same each year—and set up a gospel tent for the duration of the fair, just like the shop-keepers and amusement places. They have a large tent for the meetings, and small ones in which to rest. On the days of large attendance they plan to have as many speakers and singers on hand as possible, so as to be able to run the meetings continuously day and night, with some workers resting while others carry on.

After the fair we made a few short camps in villages where there are Christians or inquirers, getting acquainted with them and giving them some teaching. Then came the sabhas, three in our district and two in which we had part in other districts. Of the three in the Amraoti District two were out in the villages, and one was the annual Amraoti-Chandur Church Council convention. All three were owned and blessed by God, and we believe that each contributed something which will stand for eternity. Brother Schelander and Brother Khandare were the principal speakers in the village sabhas, and A. I. Garrison in the Church Council sabha.

A very encouraging incident in connection with the Church Council convention was the way God dealt with the eldest daughter of our colporteur, bringing her to a place of yieldedness and then healing her.

She had been teaching in government schools for several years, but for some months had been afflicted with some mysterious complaint which baffled the doctors and time spent in hospitals under their care seemed to do no good.

There was much prayer offered for her during the meetings and then one day at noon her father asked two missionaries to come and anoint her. Without any suggestion from anyone she began to speak, telling how God had called her for His service several years ago, but she had gone ahead in self-will following the vocation of her own choosing. Now she said she was ready to surrender and commit herself to God and the following of His will for her life.

When we knelt to pray both the parents humbled themselves before God confessing that they had encouraged their daughter in her course
being proud of her ability. After that we prayed and anointed her and it was not hard to believe that God undertook for her, but there was a test yet to come.

That night she was worse instead of better and had to leave the meeting, but came back later and managed to give her testimony. Next day she began to improve and soon after resigned from her job with the Government and took definite steps to prepare herself for the service of God and now, after six months or more she is still strong and well. Praise God!

The Amraoti Church Council held a short term Bible school in our district from September 24 to October 11, and for a first effort it was very encouraging. It gave us great joy to watch the transforming power of the Word of God in the lives of some of the students as they took it in day by day, and learned to pray.

Miss Ransom, who was here before we came, laboured in the district all through the touring season, and has taken an active part in all the work of the station, and in the short term Bible school. The Cutler family also has been a great asset in the work. Miss Cutler will report separately concerning her work.

About the last of April Mr. Louisrao Aglave came to act as pastor of the Amraoti and Badnera Churches. We are very much pleased with his ministry and thank God for his earnest spirit and the splendid messages he gives from week to week and believe his work will bear fruit.

There are many around over the district who have expressed a desire to become Christians and we have met some of them, given them some teaching and had prayer with them, but we hope to get closer to them during the coming touring season if the Lord tarry.

We thank God and take courage.

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**Dragon Slayers**

**By LAUREN CARNER**

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, . . . I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

—Genesis 3:14, 15.

On a dark, hot night of the month of May the devoted Christian wife of our honoured headmaster, Mr. R. P. Chavan, was fatally bitten by a deadly viper in front of her little home on the school premises.
Some Dragon-Slayers

Here are the boys mentioned in the article, with the victim of their success.

(See page 28)
VILLAGE CHRISTIANS’ SONS WHO ATTEND SANTA BARBARA SCHOOL
Since that tragic night here in the vicinity of Santa Barbara no fewer than twenty serpents, not a few of which were cobras, vipers and other venomous snakes, were killed. Only a few days ago a little group of small boys came to our home proudly bearing a great five-foot-long cobra which they themselves had killed. We rejoiced with them in the destruction of another dark, creeping enemy of man and beast; but we rejoice still more in that here in this Christian school our boys are being taught how they may triumph over “that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world” and who holds such complete sway over this idolatrous land where the serpent in bodily form is worshipped as one of the gods. We pray that from this school there shall go forth a valiant band of lads—dragon slayers who shall proclaim the triumphs of the Gospel in their native India, and who shall at last swell the train of those who “climbed the steep ascent of heaven through peril, toil, and pain”, having overcome the Serpent “by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony”.

With this glorious end in view the various school activities have been carried forward during the past year. Again our faithful teaching staff have witnessed most encouraging results from their scholastic endeavours among the boys. Again our farm manager, Mr. Kulkarni, and our boys who helped him have been able to rejoice in an abundant harvest as the fruit of their strenuous labours on the school farm. In these uncertain days our God has again graciously supplied the financial needs of the school.

The maintenance of school discipline has been greatly expedited by the introduction of the English House System. The whole school has been equally divided into three “houses” or groups which compete with one another in scholarship, sports, and conduct. The houses are named after three great Indian Christian saints: Baba Padmanji, the honoured Christian pastor and preacher; Narayan Vaman Tilak, the great Marathi Christian poet; and Sadhu Sundar Singh, the world-famed Christian evangelist. Each house has its hymn, Scripture motto, and colour. Each house has a master serving as its sponsor, and in each house worthy boys are appointed leaders to maintain order and discipline, and to take a measure of the responsibility which would otherwise fall on the school staff. At the close of the school year awards are presented to the houses which are first in scholarship, sports, and conduct. At the end of last school year the Padmanji House won both the conduct and the scholastic shields, and the Tilak House won the sports shield.
The spiritual welfare of the boys was furthered by Bible classes as part of the school curriculum, by daily prayers, by the Thursday evening prayer meeting, by the Sunday school, by Sunday worship services in the school chapel and at the Akola Church, by a special Bible class for the sons of village Christians, and by two series of special evangelistic meetings conducted by Mr. Laxman Chaudhari, the godly young evangelist of the Children's Special Service Mission. A few of the boys have manifestly evidenced God's Spirit working in their lives, and we trust that others, though unknown to us, have felt the impact of the Gospel to such an extent that they too shall join King Jesus in the victorious company of the Dragon Slayers.

During the touring season some of the boys and teachers helped in the work of district evangelism, and two of these boys later went to the Bodwad Bible Training School. We rejoice in the fact that there are now in that school five old Santa Barbara boys preparing for the Gospel ministry. Two other old boys of Santa Barbara have this year returned to us from Bodwad to gain a little practical experience in the work of the school and the district before continuing their Bible training. Another is serving in the same way in Anjangaon district.

Thus, in conclusion, we ask that you will pray with us that more and more, if Jesus tarries, Santa Barbara may serve as a school for training Dragon Slayers—a glorious company of young men saved from sin, prepared in body, mind, and spirit to be the disciplined followers of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and honoured among those who shall witness the final bruising of the Serpent's head by the One whose heel was bruised and who even bore the cruel sting of death in order that these boys, and others, too, might share in the final victory.
## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>Square Miles</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Towns and Villages</th>
<th>Missionaries</th>
<th>Indian Staff</th>
<th>Sunday Schools</th>
<th>Sunday School Enrollment</th>
<th>Churches Organized</th>
<th>Churches Unorganized</th>
<th>Offering in Rupee</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Total Christian Community</th>
<th>Towns which Converge Live</th>
<th>Baptisms (1940)</th>
<th>Evangelistic Meetings held</th>
<th>Scripture Portions Sold</th>
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MISSIONARY DIRECTORY, 1941

Headquarters: AKOLA, BERAR
Chairman: REV. K. D. GARRISON

BERAR

Akola
REV. AND MRS. K. D. GARRISON
REV. AND MRS. A. C. EICHER
Miss HildA J. DAVIES

Amraoti City
REV. AND MRS. L. E. HARTMAN
Miss H. FAITH CUTFER

Anjangaon
REV. AND MRS. FRED W. SCHELANDER

Chandur (Ry.)
(Vacant)

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Miss Bernice STEED
Miss AGNETE HANSEN
Miss E. KRATER
Miss JULIA DERR

Malkapur
REV. AND MRS. TILMAN AMSTUTZ

Murtizapur
REV. AND MRS. O. G. SCHLATTER

EAST KHANDESH

Bhusawal
REV. AND MRS. A. I. GARRISON

Nargaon
REV. AND MRS. E. F. EICHER
REV. AND MRS. GERALD L. CARNER

Jalgaon
Miss KATHERINE P. Williams

Pachora
(Vacant)

Chalisgaon
(Vacant)

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Miss LUella BURLEY

Dholka (Ahmedabad District)
REV. AND MRS. AUGUST HELFERS

Mehmadabad (Kaira Dist.)
Miss Myra Wing

Sanand
(Vacant)

Virangam
REV. AND MRS. J. S. RINGENBERG

Visnagar, Baroda State, North Gujarat
REV. AND MRS. SAMUEL KERR

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(Ramabai Mukti Mission)
MRS. N. H. PHILLIPS

Ootacamund, South India
(Children's Home)
Miss E. LOTHIAN

ON FURLOUGH

Rev. RAYMOND H. SMITH
Miss BLANCHE CONGER
REV. AND MRS. C. A. GLSTAFSON
REV. AND MRS. E. R. CARNER
REV. AND MRS. LAUREN R. CARNER
Miss EdITH MOORE
Miss MARThENA RANSOM
Miss E. WELLS (in India)

RETIREd IN INDIA

Mrs. Martha RAMSEY, AKOLA
Rev. C. W. SCHELANDER, AMRAOTI
Rev. AND MRS. L. J. CUTLER

Amraoti
Miss Cora Hansen, Mehmadabad
Miss Helen BUSHEFIELD

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