The India Alliance

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The India Alliance
A Bulletin of the Mission of the Christian and Missionary Alliance

SECTION I
INTRODUCTION

The C. and M.A. in India, 1941

The year 1941 closes with sinister shadows cast across India by the war in the Pacific. Burma is already being bombed as we write. This throws into brighter relief the rest of the past year, during which Gospel work in this land has been able to proceed unhindered. There has, of course, been an awareness of the world struggle. War necessarily brings some restrictions upon citizen life, and a number of our Christian young men are serving in Indian battalions. But even so, the war seemed remote, and the people of India have enjoyed a freedom almost unique in the world of to-day.

Of course there are not lacking in India those who think that this is a time to shout slogans. Ill-feeling between Mohammedans and Hindus, kept alive by astute leaders for purposes of their own, has flared into community clashes in a number of cities. At least two of our stations—one in each field—have suffered outbreaks of mob violence. But though our Christian people were endangered none have lost their lives. One report tells of a Christian dragged from a bus, and his clothing spattered with blood as the man with him was
hacked to death. He, however, was allowed to go unharmed when they learned that he was a Christian.

Perhaps the outstanding feature in our work this year was the deep and thorough-going revival. It began in Ahmedabad before the Annual Gujarathi Convention, reached high tide in those meetings, and spread to schools and stations, in streams of living water. Then it broke out also in the Marathi Convention, and thence spread to other places. More detailed description will be found in the station reports.

A two-month training class for young evangelists in Gujarat, with twenty-one students, and three short-term Bible schools for village Christian leaders in the Marathi field were a blessing to many. Miss Derr and others have translated Dr. Simpson’s *Wholly Sanctified*, and it is hoped soon to print it in Marathi.

The oldest of our churches, though not now the largest, is that in Akola. In celebration of its recent jubilee this church has rebuilt the pastor’s house and added a large upstairs Sunday-school room. Of the eleven hundred rupees expended, only two hundred represented foreign gifts, the rest being subscribed by the members, many of whom are at present out of work.

Six missionaries (Misses Wing and A. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Eicher, and Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Garrison) returning from home early in the year relieved six others who had earned a rest, and were able to sail for furlough. Miss E. Wells, who has in recent years filled the important place of Superintendent of Pandita Ramabai’s Mukti Mission, has retired after forty-four years of valued service in India. But though retired, Miss Wells is unable to be inactive, and has settled at Sirur, Poona District, where she has found a quiet sphere of useful ministry. The Alliance has sent out a new recruit, Mrs. N. H. Phillips, to serve in the Mukti Mission. Thus the number of missionaries in active service on this field remains the same as last year. Several of our number have suffered severe attacks of malaria or of typhoid
fever, but all have been spared to us, and our ranks remain unbroken. Miss Krater has been called to undergo protracted suffering, and is still in a hospital in south India, but her spirit is cheerful, and she confidently expects the Lord’s healing touch.

New arrivals in our midst, who were just in time to attend Annual Conference in October, are Raymond Elmore Eicher, and Frances Ruth Carner, who have come to brighten the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Eicher and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carner.

Our Annual Conference was a very precious season of fellowship for the missionaries. The Lord gave a gracious sense of His presence and of His superintendence of our work, and our hearts are filled with new courage and expectation that He will be glorified in our service during the coming difficult year.

In the following pages we share with you some of the encouragements from the missionaries’ reports to Conference. Because of difficulty of securing paper for printing it has been necessary to abbreviate them. As you read we ask you to rejoice with us in all of God’s goodness to us, and especially that the doors for service in India are still open.
SECTION II
REVIVAL

How Revival Came to Ahmedabad

RUTH G. BRABAZON

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?
Who can show forth all His praise?—Psalms 106: 2.

Ahmedabad, an industrial city of over 600,000 people, offers a large field for missionary work. People from every part of the country, of every caste and religion and sect, filter into the city. Many Christians come also, and there are large city churches here.

Recently the Lord began a new work in Ahmedabad. Through much prayer a deep spiritual hunger had come to us and our Indian pastor. The pastors of the Methodist, Irish Presbyterian and Alliance churches began to meet together for prayer. They agreed to have joint evangelistic meetings, and invited Brother Robert Cummings to minister. There was marked blessing, and the Alliance church building—the largest in the city—proved far too small. Then an open-air space was selected, between two buildings, with large shade trees overhead. An Alliance layman who owns a weaving factory loaned many bolts of cloth, which was spread on the ground to seat the congregation. Hundreds of Christians came. For five days spiritual hunger deepened. Then one day Mr. Cummings asked all who desired the spirit of grace and of supplication to fall upon them, to stand. Two-thirds of the vast audience stood, and then one by one prayed aloud without a moment’s hesitation. After that, little praying groups in each church joined in prayer for revival.
The three pastors then began to work together. Three mornings a week they came, by bus or on foot, a distance of ten miles to our bungalow, where with sobs they prayed for themselves and their people. Three mornings a week they would go together in visitation work calling upon every Christian home in a given area. In the afternoons they distributed tracts and gospels in the busy streets, or were on hand when the mill hands left their work, to preach to the crowds that would pause to listen. Much blessing was upon this work.

A few months later the united churches called Mr. Bakht Singh Chabra, a converted Sikh, to have special meetings in the city. Intense interest was shown from the first. Up to two thousand people sat night after night in reverent silence from eight o'clock, often until midnight. Then, the buses having stopped at ten, they walked home carrying sleeping babies and leading sleepy children. Some walked five to eight miles, but returned again the next night! Hundreds of people arose to their feet to ask for prayer. There was much confession of sin, and conversions both among nominal Christians and Hindus.

The Ahmedabad meetings closed when the evangelist had to leave for the Mehmedabad Mela, but were opened again when he finished his service there, and continued until he had to leave for another engagement. The whole Christian community was stirred. People who were not attending the meetings became uncomfortable about their sins and were constrained to fall on their knees and seek forgiveness. The three pastors were busy night and day with repentant Christians and with inquirers from among non-Christians. The churches have been filled for many weeks and one has felt in them the hallowed presence of Jehovah God. Prayer groups have been formed in many localities and revival fire has spread to towns and villages for miles around.

Shortly after this public meetings were stopped on account of communal riots which broke out between Hindus and
Mohammedans, and spread rapidly. Bus services ceased and markets were closed; cars were stoned and people dragged out and killed; whole sections of the city were set afire, and shops and homes looted and destroyed; stabbings and killings for apparently no reason were common; police were rushed from Bombay, and a curfew enforced throughout the city; thousands of people fled from the city, which was filled with fear. Yet let us say to the glory of God that His protection of His children during these days was marvellous. Many of our Christians were carried off, but were released when it was discovered that they were Christians.

One young man, who had come back to the Lord during the meetings, sat beside a Hindu municipal superintendent in his motor car. The car was held up and they were dragged out; his superintendent was chopped to bits before his eyes, and the Christian’s clothes were spattered with his blood; yet the mob released him when they learned that he was a Christian. Many such testimonies have revealed that truly ‘The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him, and delivereth them’.

As a result of God’s working in our midst there are many inquirers, and many are asking for baptism. The young Christian people are eagerly seeking to win others. We saw one young man standing near his high school, Bible in hand, earnestly expounding some passage to his Hindu classmates. With the blessings have come also responsibilities. There is need of an enduement of power from on high for our church leaders that they may be enabled to lead the new-born souls into the deeper things of God.

It has been a privilege to minister personally to eight weekly Bible classes of women, girls, and young people through these months. It is a joy and inspiration to touch these lives. Surely He has opened the rock and the waters have gushed out, and run into the dry places like a river.
The Fire Falls

AUGUST HELFERS

It must be forty years or more since the first Alliance Camp meeting at Mehmadabad, now known as the Mehmadabad Mela, was held under the guiding influence of our Alliance pioneer missionaries. With a few exceptions it has been held annually.

The camp ground comprises the large Mission compound and its buildings for the Bible Training School. It is very conveniently situated near the railway station of Mehmadabad, and is in the center of our Christian churches, so that the Christians can come on foot or by bullock cart from many of the neighbouring churches. Ahmedabad city is only a short distance by train from here.

It was a happy thought when the Gujarat Synod of the Alliance Church asked Mr. Bakht Singh to come for special meetings. He came immediately after the remarkable meetings in Ahmedabad, and people flocked from the city as well as from the surrounding dozen churches to hear more of God’s Word. Brother K. D. Garrison also joined us and gave old-fashioned messages on Alliance Truth. The brilliant Methodist pastor who interpreted for Mr. Bakht Singh received the assurance of his salvation during one of the meetings when Brother Garrison spoke.

At the camp meeting the day began at five in the morning when a bell rang calling people to pray in the church. There were meetings lasting throughout the day and late into the night. Often time was not found to cook the simple meals of rice and pulse, or for the making of their pancake-like bread on the little fires before the grass huts erected for the occasion. Food for the soul took precedence, and when people were not in the meetings they were somewhere on their knees reading the Scriptures. Those who had come without Bibles soon bought them. One woman came to me at two-thirty in the morning for a Bible.
The farmers, who could not leave their cattle much longer than a mother her babe, came and went each day for the meetings. A few people who had come from the city had to leave on pressing business, but soon returned. Each train from the city brought more people. There were pastors from the different churches, school teachers, a school inspector, a lady doctor, a banker, divinity students and people from many walks of life. The grass huts had to be enlarged several times.

Usually the greatest meeting of the mela is on Sunday morning. The church was crowded so that every available space on the floor and the platform was taken. Brother Garrison brought a powerful message on the Coming of the Lord in the light of present world events. After the message the Lord’s Supper was served to that large audience. With the aid of ten pastors and two elders the service was conducted so that all were more conscious of the presence of the Lord than the mechanics of serving over a thousand people.

The afternoon meeting began at three o’clock and people were still coming in crowds from the city by train. Brother Bakht Singh was to address both the afternoon and evening meetings. The church was full to overflowing. The message, “The Necessity of Being Born Again,” came to a remarkable climax at the appeal towards the close. People all over the church had arisen almost en masse in response. When Brother Bakht Singh prayed, the Spirit of God fell upon the audience which simultaneously began to pray in dead earnest. There was the expression of awful fear and anguish on many faces. People prayed with outstretched hands, or on their faces before the Lord. It was one huge altar service, each praying audibly without thinking of anything else. It sounded like a great Niagara of agony. No leader was needed, nor could anyone stop the mighty breaking up of the depths of human nature.

People prayed until victory was assured. When the spirit
of rejoicing broke upon us, the Presbyterian and Methodist pastors led us singing at the top of their voices in a Salvation Army hymn on the “Cleansing by the Blood of Christ.” Time passed unheeded. No one moved. People wanted God. There they were—Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Salvationist in an Alliance Camp meeting—all seeking God. But no one thought of his earthly affiliation, it was Heaven that mattered—and it was heavenly to behold it.

People’s suppers long since had turned to charcoal, if they were on the fire. But the meeting went on. Testimony must be given to the new-found experience with God. One at a time was permitted to speak briefly. Brother Bakht Singh would quote a Scripture text, with reference immediately after a person had testified. So many remarked later how comforting and appropriate were the texts given them. The afternoon passed into the evening, and evening into night. It was one-thirty in the morning when the meeting finally closed.

The rest of the night was spent in groups at prayer or discussing what God had done for them. It had been a new sight to many of them. Some had even doubted that such could or should happen in this age. Their doubts, however, were removed by those who had that evening had a living experience of God in their lives.

In the morning light the people dispersed, carrying with them the fire of God.

Works of Grace at Mehmedabad

MYRA B. WING

It is with deep joy that I have taken up my work again in this land, to make Christ and His wonderful power known.

The Annual Gujarathi Convention was held in Mehmedabad in March. From the first great reverence was given to the Word of God, and a new love for the Word was
born in many hearts. The evangelist requested one day that all should read the one hundred and nineteenth Psalm on their knees. "Read it," he said, "until God gives us all a new love for His Word." All over the compound men and women could be seen kneeling and reading.

There were definite conversions. One young man who was converted during the meetings was heard to pray "What great joy I have in calling Thee MY Father!"

A young man of nineteen who was converted in these meetings, took his Matriculation examination in April. After the examination was over, he showed me his papers. In the English paper, out of four subjects, he had to choose one on which he was to write an essay of forty lines. I asked him which subject he chose. He pointed to the subject, "The Most Exciting Day in my Life," and with beaming face and shining eyes, he said, "That is what I wrote on—my experience of Salvation and the New Birth."

A Hindu came from a village about ten miles from here to the meetings. He had been interested and had occasionally attended the Christian services but had not accepted the Lord as his Saviour. He was truly born again and rose to give his testimony. He was baptized in May and joined the Summer School for our young evangelists. His family and caste people are all against him but he remains staunch and true. His wife refuses to become a Christian. She sees nothing as yet but the great price which she will have to pay if she does become one. Pray that she may have a change of heart.

There have been several definite cases of healing in our midst. One woman who was near death's door was prayed for, and healed, and a work of grace performed in her heart. Her husband later testified, "My faith has been strengthened, my spirit quickened, and a new assurance has come to me that the Lord lives." Another one was healed of cholera, and another delivered from the habit of smoking.
SECTION III
Evangелиsm And The Churches

Village Leaders
F. W. Schelander

I thank God for His love and faithfulness in taking me aside somewhat to Himself through sickness these three and a half months. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." These have been golden days. I have had unprecedented time for reading His Word and prayer, and would not for anything have missed this blessed experience, which may have appeared to others as a trial. I would gladly go through the whole experience again if God saw it necessary for my spiritual good.

While I have been sick, Mrs. Schelander, in addition to looking after an invalid and attending to the most necessary correspondence, has directed the work of the district and dealt with an almost incessant stream of callers. God has given her a vital ministry among such persons and also with our group of helpers when they have come in for the monthly season of fellowship and prayer.

One week before I fell ill I was in the village of Vihigaon near here, to dedicate a newly built mud-walled chapel. (Vihigaon village has produced three mission workers in the past, and from it six youths have attended our Bible Training School in the last two or three years. Of these latter we expect three to become full time workers. So in number of leaders produced this congregation holds the record for this area.) Well, on this Dedication Day I was talking with the headman of the village. He said, "There have been
Christians in this place for twenty years, but they were not genuine. But now the true Christian religion has really taken root in our town. Some of these young men have the real thing.” Without assenting to his wholesale condemnation of the fruit of the past, it was encouraging to hear this view of the present situation from this caste man, himself no real friend of the Gospel.

At present the moving spirit and leader in the Vihigaon Church is Sakharam, a young convert who spent a year and a half in Bible school. In April when school closed and most students were appointed to full time work for a year on Mission pay, Sakharam was not considered of much value. He was allowed to return to his farming with no appointment and no stipend at all. It was not thought worth while for him even to return to school. But without giving way to discouragement Sakharam threw himself heartily into the work of the Lord. Since the dedication of the little church he has conducted not only a Sunday service and Sunday-school, but rarely has an evening gone without a meeting in the little building. To popularize these evening meetings he has been teaching illiterate adults to read, according to the recently evolved Laubach Method. The other night Mr. Satralkar (visiting teacher in the Short Term Bible School now in session) went with a group of students for an open-air meeting in Vihigaon. He enthusiastically reported an audience of three hundred most attentive and respectful people who refused to allow the meeting to close until midnight. He said also that what impressed him most was the respect and esteem that every one, including the caste people, seem to have for Sakharam. How pleased we would be with our district if every village were like Vihigaon and every group contained a Sakharam!

Gopal, a splendid young student worker, was stationed in the village of Umri. Here a little mud chapal was built about two years ago. The chief trouble maker in the group there soon began opposing Gopal and then put a lock on the chapel
door and threatened to thrash anyone who opened it. He also threatened to kill Gopal. Because of my illness neither I nor my wife could visit the village. After written messages to the offender proved in vain, we regretfully reported it to the police who made the man take his lock off the door. But his continued raging so frightened the group of Christians that they still held their meetings in private homes for several weeks rather than risk being attacked with clubs in the chapel. Meantime our district church committee met and excommunicated the man and his family. We then definitely, in the name of the Lord Jesus, delivered this wilful brother unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. For a few days nothing happened. Then he was suddenly questioned by the police who suspected his complicity in a robbery. Innocent or guilty, police inquisition is feared above all other things by these poor people. And Khabdur had to undergo this humiliating and painful experience before his neighbours! A few days later he was taken ill and kept his bed for a month. After all this time he is still too weak to do more than barely hobble around. Just a week ago his five-year-old child died. He may not be repentant but he is at least subdued. His old parents humbly attend the services in the chapel, and all is quiet in Umri. The Christian group and their Hindu neighbours are learning that God is to be feared. But young Gopal has perhaps profited most through this trial that might well have discouraged a more mature worker. He has proved God's power to protect and vindicate His own. And throughout Khabdur's illness he has shown a forgiving and loving spirit, calling daily to pray at his bedside.

Will you not pray that God will give us many more Sakharams and Gopals?
First Fruits in Mehsana

J. SAMUEL KERR

Thousands of Gospel portions, several Bibles and New Testaments have been put into circulation in the eighty-five villages we have been able to reach since last Conference. Day meetings were usually well attended, by representatives from all castes; and in the night meetings interest was maintained by lantern slides on the life of Christ. Time seems to be no element in these night meetings. With the younger children of the village, as well as the buffaloes and donkeys, settled for the night, good opportunity presents itself for proclaiming the gospel by lantern slides and word pictures.

Visnagar City has been the object of much concentrated effort, and we have made several encouraging contacts in different quarters, so that our faith rises to see a mighty working of God's Holy Spirit in this big town so wholly given to idolatry! Our goal is the proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ in every section and alley-way of the city. Opposition inside the city, and out in the distant villages, has been felt at times, especially in one centre where we were refused milk, water and wood. But these spasmodic times of opposition amongst the people are good testimony to the convincing and convicting power of the Gospel we are privileged to preach, and serve as a stimulus to more persistent and consistent endeavour to exalt His Name amongst the heathen.

For the good sales of Gospels, the wide proclamation of the Truth, and the health and means granted us for the prosecution of this great task we are profoundly thankful to our Heavenly Father. But our greatest joy lies in the outstanding event of the year, the baptism of Leelabhai Kurla, a village headman, of the Patidar caste! Shortly after our settling at Visnagar, Leela dropped into the compound one day for a drink of water from our well. Following the usual salutations we invited him to stay for a chat and as he praised
THE INGATHERING

GATHERING THEM, ONE BY ONE,
INTO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.
Mr. Hartman leading his flock of village Christians along the paths of righteousness, of holiness and peace. Recently in such a convention, nearly five hundred village Christians partook of the Lord's Supper. It was a glorious sight!

This happy group of village Christian women walked seventy-five miles to attend a convention. The third from the right is Sangoonabai, known to many of you through Mr. K. D. Garrison's booklet, *An Outcaste Transformed*. 
the good, sweet water of our compound well, we took oppor-
tunity to speak to him of the Water of Life. Like a thirsty
soul he listened eagerly and earnestly, and left with the pro-
mise to come back on the following Sunday morning. He
came. Again and again he came, not only on Sundays
but on week-days. Being able to read, he bought a New Testa-
ment and carefully followed the public reading of the Word.
Then he began to doff his turban and join in the singing.
His next step was to learn to pray. Finally, at our Annual
Meetings in April when the Rev. Nathalal declared God’s
counsel with fervour and simplicity, Lellabhai fell on his
face, and pled in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of his
sins. How our hearts thrilled as we heard that big heathen
man denounce Hinduism as useless. “In it,” he said,
“there is no cure for sin. Now, in this Great Name, I have
found peace in my heart.” After further weeks of instruction
he was baptized in the big pond beside our bungalow, sur-
rounded by temples and graves of the so-called “holy”
dead. And now he is enrolled as the FIRST convert from
heathenism in our little Visnagar church.

Another cause for thanksgiving is the presence of one or
more Hindus in every Sunday service since we came. No
less than fourteen attended the last night of our local conven-
tion. At present a potter, another farmer, and a few others
are evidencing a lively interest in the ever wonderful Story of
Redemption by the Cross.

Part of the monsoon months was spent helping in the
Bible Training School at Mehmedabad where we enjoyed the
inspiration of contact with the young people preparing to be
evangelists.

For the encouragements of this our first year in Visnagar
we are indebted to the faithfulness of our many prayer-
partners, and to the ‘ever-present help’ of our beloved Lord.
Encouragements in Amraoti and Chandur

L. E. HARTMAN

"David encouraged himself in the Lord his God"

Another year with its pains and its pleasures, its sorrows and its joys, its defeats and its triumphs has passed into eternity. Many of its scenes can be recalled but its opportunities cannot be brought back. Only our responsibilities remain, perhaps to be faced again before the judgment seat of Christ.

As we look back over the touring part of the work, there is little reason for complacency concerning the towns and villages we were able to touch, for those reached were so few when compared with those we were unable to reach!

Before Christmas we had a couple of students from the Training School with us and through their help we were able to form a singing-band and reach some villages where there were inquirers. The results were encouraging. Later we went out with our light outfit, going from place to place where there were Christians. We reached as many towns as possible in this way, staying a few days in each place, having meetings in the camp in the day-time for Christians and inquirers, and public meetings near some Christian’s house in the town at night.

The latter part of April, all of May and part of June, we had a singing band working in Amraoti District, and part of that time in Chandur District. They tried to touch the towns where there were inquirers, spending about four days in each and giving the Gospel in story and song. The reports of their work have been very encouraging. We spent about a week with the party in preparing them and arranging their program which was, I believe, time well spent.

In May, before we left for the hills, we had a five-day school. It was planned and financed by the Church Council
to give instruction in the Word to a few enquirers, with the hope that some would be ready then for baptism. The arrangement was that they could either bring their own food or pay an anna and a half a day (three cents) and have provisions doled out to them. In either case firewood was furnished free. The total cost to the Church Council turned out to be about twenty-five cents. After a few days some of the enquirers began to remember that their presence was required elsewhere and left. Some even disappeared at midnight. Thus the process of elimination went on, leaving the few who seemed to really want God. At the end six were baptized. We thought the plan a good one, and hope to follow it again next hot season, but on a larger scale.

The opening date of our short-term Bible School almost exactly coincided with communal riots in the city of Amraoti, with the result that only a fraction of the people we had expected, arrived. Some had heard the news in their villages, and did not start out; others came part way, but being told lurid stories of murders in Amraoti, they turned back; some even reached the edge of the city but were turned back by the police. Actually only sixteen arrived, but God blessed the classes and according to their testimonies, they received real help. Having such a few made it easier for us as all shops and the market were closed for a week, and we had to bring provisions from a town seven miles away. The primary purpose of this school being to develop leaders among the Christians, we did not intend to accept enquirers as students, but a Muhammedan and his wife, came unexpectedly, and stayed for the classes. We have not baptized them yet. We are waiting for them to get some way of earning their living. They cannot return to their village and former work, and we do not want them depending upon us for support.

We wish to express our gratitude for the efficient and faithful helpers and associate missionaries we have had with us during the year. The work done by our Indian helpers
has been invaluable. Miss Ransom, before going on furlough, did faithful and solid work in Amraoti and Chandur districts. Mr. and Mrs. Cutler, although technically retired, have been a great asset in the work. And Miss Cutler has carried on regularly and efficiently in the Sunday school and in women's and children's work in and around the city.

Miss Cutler writes that in a Sunday-school held under a large banyan tree there are enrolled fifty-five boys and sixty-five to seventy-five girls and that there are encouragements and real interest among the children.

She has held regular meetings in Hindi, Marathi and English. There has been a class for nurses in the city hospital and a preparation class for Primary Sunday-school teachers. There have been week-day meetings for women held in the church, and also some in Badnera, a railway junction town six miles away.

Miss Cutler praises God for much encouragement in the work and asks prayer for the following:—

1. A family of Muhammedans who are about to become Christians.

2. A class for Muhammedan women, that the Word may not be snatched from their hearts.

3. Women in a class at Fraserpur, that they may be saved.

4. For four Sunday-schools among children, and for six different Women's classes.

5. That the Christian women in the church may receive real spiritual blessing.
The Uplifted Standard

A. I. GARRISON

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against him.”

—Isaiah 59: 19

The past year has been one of unprecedented testing and pressure. We cannot testify to having come out of the conflict unscathed, but we do testify to having come through thus far, with a deepened experience of the grace and goodness of the Lord and with a song of victory and praise.

Hugh Cutler, a fine young man of our English congregation, went to England and finished a course in the Birkenhead Immanuel Bible Training School. We had hoped that upon his return to India, he would take up the pastoral work of our English Church, for which he seemed so suited. He was on his way back, on the Britannia, which was sunk by enemy action. After being exposed in an open lifeboat for eighteen days, our dear young friend went to be with the Lord. When the certain news of his death reached his mother, she was well-nigh overwhelmed by grief, but we lifted up the standard against this flood of grief, and the gift of quietness and peace was miraculously given to her and to us all.

A faithful attendant of our English services was suddenly taken very sick. We were hurriedly called to her bed-side. We anointed her and the Lord raised up a standard and saved her from death.

Mrs. Garrison has also been tested in body and again we have had victory as the spirit raised up the standard of healing. Faith has been quickened as we have thus been driven to our knees in many times of testing. Mrs. Garrison has had a ministry both to the English and Indian people of Bhusawal, and has spent much time in visiting the homes of the Anglo-Indian families, and her prayers and her tears are bearing fruit.
The Lord has greatly blessed the ministry of our beloved and faithful pastor Raghunath. The following are a few abbreviated items from his report:

“We thank God for having helped us and given us unity and peace.”

“Of our Elders, Mr. G. N. C., the lawyer, and his wife, have noticeably grown in grace and usefulness. Mr. E. G. L., a mail sorter in Government Railway Service, was a very strong-headed man but the Lord has removed this weakness from him. Mr. D. D. R’s life has been changed tremendously by the Lord. Mr. B. W., a railway employee, has done his duties as a deacon faithfully. D. N. has done good work in seeking to lead the young men and boys to serve the Lord in village preaching. A queer-natured person seems to be on the way to improvement. He attends church regularly and reads his Bible and he no longer questions the authority of the pastor as he used to do.

“Another disturber has become interested in the Sunday school and has opened his home for prayer-meetings. His daughters had typhoid fever. We prayed with them and they recovered. This man gave ten rupees as a thank-offering to the church, without even being asked for it!”

Emily Bai, the pastor’s wife, is a deaconess in the church. She has had blessing in her ministry in Bhuswal and in the Women’s Bible Training School at Khamgaon and in a girls’ camp where she had been called for special service.

Hindus and Christians have called Pastor Raghunath to pray for them, and there have been deliverances and answers to prayer.

The pastor says: “The deacons and elders of our church have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord, and as a result we have peace and unity and we have come to the conclusion that if the leaders of the church walk in the ways of the Lord, the whole church will follow; but with all our encouragements we are painfully conscious that some are still in darkness from which they are unable to break away,
and for these we would ask your help in prayer that they may see the glorious working of the Lord in our midst, and we trust that prayer for them too may be answered.”

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Eager Listeners in Malkapur

TILMAN AMSTUTZ

“Let thine eyes be upon the field that they do reap, and go thou after them.”—Ruth 2: 9.

In one community in which the Word has been preached before, the people were so friendly that they brought out their musical instruments, drums and cymbals, and helped in the singing of Gospel songs. One night we had a rehearsal before the meeting. Here a party of leather workers visited us and asked the conditions for becoming inquirers. They pleaded with us to visit them again soon.

We sold many Gospels in our different camps. Bible Training students were with us, and did good work in giving short messages and chart talks, and in explaining lantern pictures at night. They also formed singing and preaching bands for witnessing. Toward the end of the touring season we had a district convention, at which two young people were baptized.

In the rains we reopened our Malkapur book room. A new set of books had to be purchased as our former ones had been borrowed and not returned. This year we have a Bible School student as librarian, to keep track of the books. School boys and their teachers from the town were frequent visitors. At some meetings held by a children’s evangelist, the local banker, the chief of police, some college students and several lawyers attended and heard the Gospel.

Pastor Bunsode has been faithful in his duties and has done much to keep up the spiritual life of the Church. There are young people’s meetings and a missionary prayer meeting, in which we are glad to report good interest. The women’s
weekly prayer meeting has been kept up by the women of the church. In ministering to the sick they have had several definite answers to prayer. The interest of a teacher and of a welfare Center nurse have been won, and they attend the meetings regularly. A Christian doctor employed by the Government to serve the lepers has shown interest in the inquirers in the district.

We ask you to pray for our touring party of workers and student helpers as they go from town to town. We have never seen such favourable times for preaching the Gospel. There are more invitations to come and preach than we are able to accept.

"By Stretching Forth Thy Hand to Heal"

OLEN G. SCHLATTER

We humbly offer thanks and praise to our Father, for the blessings of the past year. While victories have had to be won on contested ground, He has been our Leader and our Victor, and blessings have flowed to us from His hand.

After conference last year, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carner helped us in our first four conventions for village Christians. These times of fellowship were greatly appreciated by our village people who were shut off from the former festivities of Hinduism when they became Christians.

For weeks we went from place to place encouraging the Christians who are scattered in thirty different villages. The touring season closed with a large convention held just a few miles from our district border. Christians from eighteen villages in our district were able to attend. We were encouraged to see how God’s hand had been upon our flock during a trying hot season while we were away, and spiritual growth was evidenced in quite a few of them. Recently, the church here has been re-organized and twenty-five were admitted into full church membership, fifteen of whom came from churches outside our district. The city of Murtizapur
is at a railway junction, and Christians come here for work. We believe the group will increase as they follow the Lord in spreading the Gospel to their neighbors.

Five regular week-day meetings are held for women by Mrs. Schlatter and two volunteer Bible-women. On Saturday evenings there is a meeting for Sunday school teachers in which instruction in teaching is given. At the close of the Sunday school, the reviews of the lessons are given by feltograph, which interests the children and helps to fix the lessons in their minds.

A short-term Bible school, of sixteen days, was held with profit for village Christians. People from fourteen villages attended, and in spite of sore eyes, fevers, and other illnesses, the close contact, with its opportunity of giving the word of God to them daily was a real privilege. Mr. and Mrs. Tilman Amstutz helped us, and our chairman, Mr. K. D. Garrison, gave us two days of special meetings, at the close of the school session.

In one of the school’s evening meetings of song and testimony, Gunput said concerning a relative about whom we had enquired, “No he is not ready for baptism, as yet, he does not have faith”. Then turning to a woman near by he said, ‘Here is my brother’s wife, at first she did not have faith, but God raised her son up from the jaws of death and now she has faith; and when my other relatives see God’s work, like that, they too will have faith.”

This Gunput’s wife was very ill. He was called to her side before she died. She was barely breathing. Heathen relatives had fed her milk and sugar that her spirit might depart in peace. They asked to bring in “sacred fire” to help her. Ganput argued with them that it was not necessary and that God could raise her up. Suddenly she rallied, sat up, rebuked them for their thought of sacred fire for her. She was instantly healed. A few hours later she had eaten a normal meal. They had put their trust in God and He had worked for these simple new believers.
As we review the year, we attribute the blessing in the work to special prayer. There has been the regular monthly day of prayer, and throughout the year we have sent out the veteran's prayer bulletin to our retired missionaries on the field. Out of twenty-four definite requests mentioned in these monthly letters, twelve have been answered; others are still to be answered. As we look at this record we wonder if more of us should not retire to a life of prayer! May God bless you as you uphold us in your prayers for this district.

Answers to Prayer in Khamgaon District

JULIA DERR

During the past year, we have seen prayer answered and have been made conscious of the Lord's faithfulness. For a time Miss Beardslee worked with me, but was called to the Women's Bible school work. Miss Krater took her place, but for many months has been ill in a hospital in South India and I have been alone, save that the presence of the Lord has been precious and I praise Him for enabling help.

At one of our camps during the touring season there was a group of people who for some time have been inquirers. The people of the town told us that one of their number is a true Christian, and that three Hindu sadhus came to their town and spoke against Christianity and this man whom they considered a Christian, for three hours defended the faith before all the Hindus. He and his wife have not yet been baptized because of persecution by his wife's family. Pray for him and his family.

Last year we wrote about a Hindu woman who was saved through having a vision of the Lord Jesus, and later when very ill was restored to health. We are glad to tell you that she has stood true to her new faith through severe tests this past year. Her daughter lately died suddenly. It was a hard blow to Dagardibai's faith, for she had prayed for her
restoration. But the faithful Bible-woman ministered spiritual comfort to her. She has now regained her spiritual poise. Throughout this time of distress, she never suggested turning to her former idols.

Another family which needs prayer is that of an outcaste, who is a school teacher in a village near here. When a boy he attended our village school at Tivan Takli. He worked hard, went through normal school and secured a government post. He has long been persuaded of the truth of Christianity and wants to step out, but has not yet had courage to do so because of the opposition of his parents. We are teaching him and his bright young wife, so that she will be ready to accept Christ with him.

I have had regular meetings for our Christian women and children with systematic Bible teaching. The pastor of our church has carried on regular church work for Khamgaon and Malkapur district. He has been faithful and zealous. We feel that the Lord has promised fruit to us and we count Him faithful who promised.

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**Growth in Jalgaon**

**KATHERINE P. WILLIAMS**

We thank God and rejoice that both Sunday school and church have advanced this year. We are greatly encouraged when we see how enthusiastically our new Sunday school teachers have entered into the church work.

The pastor has held cottage prayer meetings in different localities almost daily. Some who were formerly indifferent have become helpers and faithful supporters. The pastor has shown grace and patience under trial. He has broken the manna of the Word to us week by week. A deacon said lately, “I have never heard such messages as our pastor gives us.” The Church attendance has been good and there is spiritual life in the church.
One new member has given helpful messages when the pastor was ill. He has started a Sunday school in his neighborhood; another man has become untiring in his services for the Lord. He and four adult members of his family have recently been baptized, as was also the pastor’s youngest daughter. Another new member, who is the head clerk in the Imperial Bank, has also taken a pulpit service when the pastor was sick.

And so we “rejoice in the Lord,” for He is working in us and for us.

“The tears of the sower
And the songs of the reapers
Will mingle together in joy by and by.”

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In Viramgam-Sanand District

“For the sake of the Name they went forth.”—3 John 7 (R.V.)

EDNA and JESS RENGENBERG

To teach the meaning hidden in that Name which is above every name; “to unfold its sweetness and power; to exert its spell over souls that have never yet felt its magnetism; to glorify it and make it honoured and beloved,” this, by His enabling we have sought to keep before us as our aim during the year. While there has been the need for the exercise of patience, “longing for answers to prayers that are still delayed; yearning for the realization of hopes and ideals of which God’s Spirit has spoken to us,” yet we have experienced countless blessings to cheer and comfort our hearts along the way.

Shortly after our two daughters arrived from school for their cold season holidays we packed in preparation for the months of camping in the district. After the bullock carts were loaded with most of the heavy kit, it was the wee hours of the morning. We followed later with the heavily loaded trailer hitched to the car. You might have smiled had you
seen us, and our two Indian helpers packed in, with baskets and breakables tucked in around our feet. Even the goat could not be left behind, for our eleven-month-old son was dependent upon the goat for his food. When once we arrive and are settled in camp we forget the busy days of packing and we rejoice in the privilege of living the pilgrim life in God's outdoors, close to the alluring sights and sounds of nature. Miss Luella Burley joined our happy group and was initiated into village teaching and preaching.

One day in the village of Karanpura at the close of a meeting a shepherd stepped forward and gave this precious testimony: "I had two sisters who believed on Jesus and died with His name on their lips. I, too, believe on Him and He answers my prayers." Then he related the following two incidents: "I bought a small plot of land adjoining the village here. All my neighbours discouraged me, telling me I would surely get no crop from that bit of unpromising land. But when I went to sow my field I stood in the middle of it and lifted up my heart asking Jesus Christ to bless the seed sown. When harvest time came and I told my neighbours the Lord had given me twenty-eight bushels of grain from that plot they were greatly surprised. I know the good harvest came in answer to my prayer." He further related, "One morning I discovered that my camel had been stolen. I was told by someone that a camel had been seen going in a certain direction, so I followed on foot, praying as I ran, 'Lord Jesus, give me back my camel, and give me strength to follow until I find it'." It is seldom that such a theft is traced after the elapse of several hours. But this man's case was different for he had an unseen Guide. He trudged on through the heavy sand of the jungle trails, across the fields, and headed toward the town of "Salt Waves" nearly forty-five miles distant. When he reached the edge of the town he spied his camel which he recognized by certain marks on its body. Though his muscles were aching and he was exhausted, he came home triumphantly a few days later, riding his beast and
with a song of joy welling up in his heart because the Lord had graciously answered his cry. We rejoiced to hear the testimony of this one who had responded to Christ and who was not afraid to witness away in this distant village of the great things the Lord had done for him.

A few days before leaving Detroj a man of the farmer caste who furnished our camp with buffalo-milk brought to us his two-year-old son. He had fallen from the upper story of his house some months before, injuring his skull. It had not healed. Pus oozed from a sore near his left temple and he had a temperature every day. The father had come for medicine, but we realized the case was serious and asked his permission to anoint and pray for the child. He consented and we called upon God to heal. Later, we learned that the child had been fully restored to health.

During the month of September it was our happy privilege to teach in the second semester of the two months' Bible school at Mehmedabad. Twenty-one young people attended, about half of whom were new recruits. God blessed His Word to all of our hearts. We praise Him for these promising young lives and ask you to pray that God may definitely set apart for His service those whom He wishes to use. Some are already in evangelistic work and others are teaching in village schools for Christian and non-Christian children.

Twelve weekly Bible classes among non-Christian children, of nine castes, are being conducted, most of them in Viramgam and near villages. It is evident that God's Spirit is using the Word planted in the hearts of these children. Moti, a shepherd lad, now nearly ten years old and who has attended the class in his quarters four years, always sends for his Bible teacher to come and pray for him when he is ill. She gathers the class youngsters around his bedside for prayer, and each time the boy has soon recovered. Dhurla, a fifteen-year-old sweeper boy, who attended his class for about three years, knelt along with others of the class one day and made his decision for Christ. As he now has to work, he no longer
SAMPLES OF OUR MANY VILLAGE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

AMONG MUHAMMEDAN CHILDREN

AMONG THIEVING CASTE CHILDREN
A group of boys and girls may be
My God appointed task;
Help me to lead each one to Thee
What greater could I ask?

AMONG THE SWEEPERS CHILDREN

AMONG HIGH CASTE CHILDREN

Held in a high caste home
attends the class but he reads his New Testament and says that he does not worship idols but prays only in Jesus’ name.

God has given a number of open doors, especially among the Muhammedan women of Viramgam and its environs. Several have invited us into their homes for Bible study. It is gratifying to find upon questioning them that they have remembered much of what they were taught the previous week. Usually, when they know we are coming, like Cornelius, they have their relatives and friends on the spot ready to hear the message God has for them.

A middle-aged contractor of Viramgam, who is a weaver by caste, is manifesting a keen interest in becoming a Christian. He was wholly ignorant of the Gospel when we first met him. He comes frequently to hear the Scriptures explained and attends the Sunday services. He confesses he has lived a profligate and sinful life, but now seems desirous to walk in the light. He has made a study of his own religion and has several young disciples. To these he wishes to teach the way of salvation through Christ as soon as he is sufficiently familiar with it.

Pritibai, the wife of one of our evangelists, some years ago came to us from another mission. During the annual convention at Mehmedabad in March she was brought face to face with the appalling fact that she was not a “born again” Christian, but one in name only. God wonderfully met her and made her a new creature in Christ Jesus. Her joy knew no bounds and her face was radiant as she testified to God’s marvellous blessings to her. She followed evangelist Bahkt Singh’s advice to Christians to kneel, not only in prayer but also when reading the Word, and found great blessing in thus bowing before the Lord daily. She has taught her two children also to read the Bible on their knees. Pritibai observes Friday of each week in prayer and fasting and “in remembering”, as she puts it, “all my Lord has done for me”.

We heartily thank all supporters and helpers who have strengthened our hands during the year. At times we are
conscious of “iron gates” (Acts 12: 10) before us that bar our progress. For the opening of these gates we need your earnest help in prayer. We commend the work and workers to you for continued and persevering prayer that there may be a harvest of whole-hearted baptized believers who, in turn, will become soul winners for the Master.

Youthful Evangelists in Akola

ALBERT C. EICHER

Combining the supervision of the Boys’ Boarding School with the District evangelistic work has proved a blessing. Our teachers and school boys have helped in evangelistic campaigns, and have themselves reaped a harvest of blessing.

As a result of two evangelistic campaigns concentrated on only a few villages, rather than widely scattered preaching, we had the privilege of baptizing some sixteen men and women and dedicating about nineteen children. Mrs. Eicher has taken over most of the school office work to relieve me for district evangelistic ministries. She has also Sunday school work, and with her cheerful Bible-woman, renders service among the women.

We thank God for our co-labourers in the Gospel. Our quiet, fearless book-seller sold over a thousand gospels, ten New Testaments, and four Bibles. Evangelist Anandrao Thode and his family have newly come to us and are in the Borgoan out-station. His home is a fine example. Our youngest evangelist, recently out of our Boys’ School, chose to forego the festivities of Christmas in the big church, and cycle out almost twenty miles to bring Christmas closer to a group of village Christians recently baptized. It was his own idea, and he returned beaming. The other evangelist, Bro. Kokane, is a most earnest soul-winner. He has the
knack of fitting the Gospel picture into the frame of Indian village life.

A ten-day short term Bible School for village leaders gave opportunity for consecutive Bible teaching. The fruit of this school in increased lay witnessing has been good. One in particular witnesses, "I am a Christian now. My heart is light from its sin burden. If you have any theological discussions take them to the teachers. This one thing I know: I was a sinner, now I am free." Four of the sixteen baptized were brought through this man's witness.

We went to give a hand at the immense Rin Mochan Hindoo festival in Bro. Fred Schelander's District, as he was not yet physically fit to be there. Seven of our school boys went along, and between the preaching and singing, they presented a dialogue dramatizing Pilgrim's Progress. It was so effective that the Indian brethren in charge of the program called for it four times in the practically continuous meeting in our auditorium tent. Between presentations, six of the lads on their own initiative went out and sold fifty gospels. Number seven had a stomach ache. We all came home weary — and anxious to go out again!
SECTION IV
SCHOOLS

Helping the Little Women

By BERNICE STEED and AGNETA HANSEN

“How grown-up your girls look” said a missionary recently visiting Khamgaon School. Yes, eighty of the girls in the school are over twelve years of age and we realize that we have a school of “little women”. What an opportunity for young people’s work! What a great responsibility we have in guiding these young lives who are the hope of the Church of tomorrow, if Jesus tarry.

May not these young people from homes in some thirty-four widely scattered towns and villages, carry the Gospel to points which we cannot reach?

When Miss Moore left for her well-earned furlough we felt a very big gap in the school. How glad we were to welcome Miss Hansen, with her God-given gifts, to help bear the responsibility we have in training the young lives entrusted to our care. Our family now numbers 112. Three others have recently gone to their own homes, having had a triple wedding. Fifteen girls, some Hindus and some from Christian homes, come to study as day scholars.

Our hearts well up in praise to our faithful God for His mercies, which during the past months have been fresh every morning on behalf of our family. We thank Him for His supply of material needs. One gift, especially, touched our hearts. Radhabai, a Christian widow, formerly of Akola, latterly of Ahmedabad, this year went to be with the Lord, whom she loved and served. Well I remember the frail little
woman I met in the Ahmedabad Church a few years ago. Her clothes were the cheapest procurable and worn and shabby. Great was our surprise when two hundred and twenty-five rupees ($68.00) were forwarded to us from her estate, according to her will. I understand this was not the only bequest of hers to gospel work. Only utmost frugality and sacrifice through the years could have made this large gift possible. There have been other gifts that have cost, I am sure, and we thank all who have helped.

We would be most ungrateful, if we did not also sound a note of praise for a large measure of health among our girls and for answered prayer on behalf of ill-ones. Yeshwadibai, one of our orphan girls who last year graduated from the Bible School, has been very helpful in caring for the sick as well as acting as assistant matron. Ambibai who has served so many years in the school is no longer able to carry the burden alone. Pray for some one to fill her place.

Our teachers, two of whom are new this year, are an invaluable help in training our "little women" and children. We thank God for a group of teachers who love the Lord and who long to please Him in their ministries. God has led them on in spiritual things which has had an echo in the lives of the children.

There is ample opportunity in the home to develop the girls in domestic arts as all the cooking, sewing and cleaning is done by the girls themselves. The older girls act as "akkas" (older sisters) to the younger ones. It gives us great joy to go out in the evening and find a room "mother" with her little "family" gathered around her, leading them in prayer before they retire at night.

Our greatest concern is for the spiritual welfare of the girls, and we praise God for His working in hearts. The Bible is taught in every class and some of the older girls have had the privilege of attending classes in the Bible School. We are sure the study of the Word has made a great difference in their lives. We were greatly burdened for one of the school
The doctor said she may die any moment and we knew she was not spiritually prepared to die. Sore eyes prevented her from being in her classes, so she listened-in to some of the meetings going on in the Bible School. Deep conviction for sin came upon her and she went to her own class room to make something right. A sound of wailing came from that direction. Upon investigation, we found teacher and pupils on their faces crying to God. A prayer meeting for the whole school replaced the regular afternoon school session; in fact, prayer went on until late in the night. Emilybai gave some very helpful messages. I marvelled that even little eight-year-olds could listen to a message two hours long, scarcely taking their eyes off the face of the speaker. We shall not soon forget the scene that followed one message. Here and there were little groups on their faces in prayer. Some girl was having a struggle and friends had gathered to pray her through to victory. Girls were seen going to their teachers and to companions to ask forgiveness for offences. Miss Hansen and I were kept busy, as one after another came to us to ask forgiveness for some misconduct or for help in prayer. Their hearts were very tender and it was precious to see God working. A goodly number have found Christ as their Saviour and others have taken a new stand for victory in their lives. We are convinced that there has been a real working of the Spirit in many lives as we have found a new love for the Word amongst them. Some of the older girls have chosen some promise on which to stand and claim victory over some besetting sin. Many have a real burden of prayer for unsaved loved ones.

The Khamgaon Sunday school has 192 pupils. It is divided into primary, junior, intermediate and senior departments, each having its own leader for the opening exercises.

There was much interest in the All-India Sunday school examination; more than half the Sunday school took part in it, and seventy-six passed the examination. Twenty-nine received third class, thirty-nine second class, and eight first
class certificates, one with honours. The eight received beautiful leather-bound Bibles. We attribute the good results in the examination to the mid-week preparation classes for the teachers of each department.

As we try to help these "little women" in their struggles and problems, we are very conscious that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain". We know that He is in the midst and we trust Him. We thank you for your prayer help in the past and we covet your continued prayer that we may be found useful instruments in the daily building.

The Akola Boys' School

ALBERT C. EICHER

The interesting work of the school was turned over to us two weeks after we arrived in Akola from furlough. It was a joy to witness a baptismal service, in the school tank, of eleven boys, just when we were taking over the school from brother and sister Lauren Carner, who were going on furlough.

It was considered expedient in caring for the district as well as the school for us to live in the Akola District bungalow, two miles from the Santa Barbara School, and although we are not with the boys day and night we are thankful that the Lord is with them. We are also thankful that consecrated young Indian brethren are in charge of the institution. All the teachers but one are Santa Barbara "Old Boys". Our head-master, Mr. R. P. Chavan, is the son of one of our early evangelists. He was in the school during Miss Beardslee's fruitful ministry there. After high school, he began teaching and also studied at home for the B.A. examination in which he was successful. He is the Akola Church secretary, and on many occasions has brought good messages, for he has
ability as a preacher. Our oldest teacher, Mr. Narayan Meshramker, was a lad taken in during the famine, forty years ago. He is the general superintendent of the three Sunday-schools of the Akola Church and he has a strong influence in the Christian community. For a number of years, he has been the editor of our Marathi Paper “The Spread of the Good News”. Mr. P. F. Hivale, who came to us from another mission is an energetic organizer and a pillar in the church. The latest addition whom the Lord has sent to us is Robert Bonsod. He is a son of an Alliance pastor, is a product of Santa Barbara School, and of our Marathi Men's Bible School. He gives promise of usefulness in translation work. We also have a happy combination in Brother Barnabas Kulkarni as "housefather", and his wife, Kantibai, a daughter of our Akola pastor, is the cheerful, well-trained teacher of classes one and two.

About the time of the opening of the new school year "Barnabas master" became seriously ill with a virulent type of malaria. The fever burned for forty-six days. One morning a heart attack all but cut short his ministry, but God answered prayer and he is again with us, well and strong. His testimony is this, “I cannot tell you how thankful I am to the Lord for returning me to my place of service in the school. It means more to me now than ever before.” Our living away from the school has thrown added burdens chiefly on the shoulders of "Barnabas master". This brother has supervision of the housing arrangements, the forty acre school farm, sick boys and minor discipline outside of school hours, as well as the spiritual welfare of the boys. He came originally from the Ramabai Mukti Mission but grew up in our school under Miss Beardslee's kind hand, and took our Bible Training School course. He is treasurer of the Akola Church, has a keen mind for business, a love for his boys, especially the orphans, and a deep love for the Lord.

There are seventy-three boarders in the school this year, and thirty day-scholars. The results were about ninety per
cent passes for the past year. The vernacular final examination was one hundred per cent, and in primary finals thirteen out of seventeen passed.

The health of the boys has been good and "Barnabas Master" says that the discipline has been easy because of the co-operation of the boys, and because of the effective working of the "house system" instituted by Brother Lauren Carner, 

"and", Barnabas added, "by taking everything to the Lord in prayer."

The boys have helped in singing and preaching bands, and have helped in the short time Bible school work for village Christians. Special stress has been laid on training the boys for this work and they love it. We believe it to be practical to sing the gospel messages into the hearts of India's villagers. They cannot argue with a song.

God is working in the hearts of both the boys and masters. We are definitely praying for the salvation of every boy and for an evangelistic vision and fervour throughout the school. We request you to pray with us to this end.

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**Digging Gold**

**HARRIET BEARDSLEE**

On returning from Conference last year Miss Derr and I made one camp in the Khamgaon District after which I took up my allotted corner in the Khamgaon Gold Fields, better known as The Women's Bible Training School. It has been a year of great blessing. Misses Steed, Hansen and Derr have all made their contribution in the way of teaching, and together we have looked to Him for His programme.

Eighteen miners were at work in the mines when I joined the mining party. Four of these were just finishing their course and were looking forward to receiving certificates confirming the work that they had done. In April our Chairman presided at our closing exercises and presented the
much coveted "sheep skin" (or, to be truthful, a type-written diploma) to these four successful candidates.

Before shutting down the mine for the hot season God put it upon our hearts to have a week of special meetings in order that these miners might be properly equipped and "established in every good word and work", before going out into a world of darkness where the precious gold would be needed so much. God used our Indian sister, Emilybai Cutler, in this process and much blessing attended her ministry. As we watched some go by train and others by bus for the hot season vacation, some to be married and set up their homes in heathen villages, some to live in Christless surroundings, and still others in homes where they would receive no spiritual help, our heart's cry was that God would help them to make good use of the gold which they had mined. God did answer prayer in many ways. Letters came telling of prayers answered, victories won and work attempted amongst the women and children.

July brought five of the former students back and eleven new ones joined us. In addition to these sixteen, ten of the older girls in the Boarding School are attending some of the Bible classes. Hence we have a good-sized school.

Those who have been connected with the school have realized the need of a course especially suited to the needs of India's women. After much prayer and consultation with others we began a new curriculum at the beginning of the new term. This has met with a happy response.

Lest we become as miserly hoarders we have sought to find as many ways as possible whereby we could make use of our gold and put it into circulation. Twice a week the girls take turns in giving a message at Chapel hour. On Sundays they conduct a children's church and are teaching the Book of Genesis by the use of the feltograph. All the older girls teach classes in the Sunday-school. During the month that Emilybai was with us she took the girls each afternoon to witness to some of the heathen women. The whole school has
been divided into prayer bands, and Thursday afternoons they meet in different groups and pray for the missionaries and their helpers and for the Indian Church.

Our daily programme has been made to include a quiet hour both morning and evening. At first some of the girls found this a bit irksome but as they learned to wait before God they began to look forward to that hour. So many times the girls have mentioned in their letters and in their testimonies the great help which they have received during the quiet hour. Usually it was here that God first began to work.

Emilybai came to us again during the latter part of August and she at once got out her spade and began to dig for the precious gold. As we continued to dig, hearts began to overflow until the day came when classes had to be suspended and all hearts were bowed and humbled before Him. Never before have I seen so much weeping for sin and so much spontaneous praise to God for His great love and mercy. The Holy Spirit took charge of the meetings and time meant nothing. We gathered at eight-thirty in the morning and sometimes it was four in the afternoon before any one moved from her place. After taking a little food and a short rest another meeting would begin and this would often continue until the wee small hours of the morning. Just as soon as a girl would really break through to God she would have a burden for one of the others. In this way ten days passed when all studies and regular routine were laid aside and we waited before God. When the Bible School girls met God for themselves they began to pray for the Boarding School girls, and the Spirit continued His work.

One of the girls asked for united prayer that she might be delivered from pride and self-righteousness. Such an agony of prayer swept over her that she prayed for hours and then such volumes of song and praise broke forth from her lips that we were all lifted into His very presence. Letters were written and things were made right even back to their childhood days. Many have been the confessions, and strong
THE INDIA ALLIANCE

has been the crying for sin as these precious souls were wrested from the power of the evil one. Oh what a patient wonder-working God is ours! But this is just an earnest of what He wants to do for us. It is His plan that these girls should grow in “the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”. This will mean a stiff battle with the enemy. We would enlist your prayer help that our adversary may not rob us of any of this precious spoil.

While the meetings were in progress a missionary from Shahada came to visit us. A young woman accompanied her and she was sent to the Bible School compound to live for the few days that she would be here. She had no sooner taken up her abode there than the girls began to talk to her about salvation. She became convicted of sin and began to make confessions and the girls had the joy of leading her to the Saviour. Needless to say the missionary returned to Shahada alone because God laid His hand upon this young life and she has joined the mining camp, and is joyfully digging for gold.

A few days ago the girls were found eating an hour later than their regular time. This was the explanation they offered, “What could we do, the devil has been trying to discourage Vimola and we just had to pray until she got the victory, because we do not want him to get his foot into our compound again”. Then Vimola with a beaming face told what God had done for her. If a girl fails to give her testimony, or if one of their number speaks unadvisedly with her lips, or any occasion arises that would savour of defeat all the girls get after the guilty one and insist that she get down on her knees and pray till she gets the victory. Praise God for His faithfulness! We are not asking God to make professional Bible women out of these girls but we are praying that they will become His light-bearers in this dark, needy India, and scatter the precious gold wherever they go, that their greatest joy in life may be to tell some one else about our Saviour.
Marathi Men’s Bible Training School

ELMORE EICHER

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, Oh Most High. To shew forth Thy loving-kindnesses in the morning and Thy faithfulness every night.”—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

If we were to count our blessings and name them one by one, this report would lengthen into a little booklet. Nevertheless we will mention a few of the things for which we thank God and praise the Giver of all good things. We thank the Lord for His working in the hearts and lives of the students, for the fine group of young men He has called to study His Word, that there has been no serious sickness in the Bible School, and especially that this past term there has been much less malaria than usual. There has been a scourge of giant scorpions, the sting of which is very serious, but each time one of these has shown itself, it was possible to destroy it before anyone was stung. There have been several close escapes from snake bite. A few nights ago, just before retiring while putting out the light in our sitting room, I noticed something black behind a chair. On investigating I found a banded krait, the bite of which is almost certain death. God’s protecting hand was over us.

Our student body is composed of young men from various walks of life. Some have only recently been converted from heathenism, some are sons of Christian parents, while others have come from our mission boarding schools. This past term we have had nine students from neighbouring missions and seventeen from our stations. Twelve of these are married. In addition to these now in school there are those who, having completed one year of study, are now out for a year of practical experience, and also some who have finished two years of study and are now witnessing in various districts prior to returning for their final year of study.
It is a great joy to our hearts when the young men return from their year of practical service and bring in their reports of God's working and blessing. We have noticed that in nearly every case of a student returning for further study, after having had a year's experience of witnessing, he has applied himself to his studies more seriously. The boys have their temptations and testings. One young man who is a normal school trained teacher, had a definite call to God's service. He heard of an opening to teach in another mission in a large city. Without consulting anyone, he applied for the position. The School Board offered him a very tempting salary, if he would only come immediately. It was also suggested that he would be able to complete his matriculation examination while teaching. This offer was a great temptation to him and the young man came to me for permission to leave school in order to accept this new position. I recognized that this was an attempt of the enemy to side track this young life. To our attempt to reason with him, he only answered, "If I teach school there, I will also be working in a mission and doing God's service." How subtle are the ways of our enemy! I requested him to pray much before making any final decision. We also prayed about the matter. About ten days later, God gave the victory and the young man chose to do what he and we knew was God's will for him. Please pray for this young man that he may, having counted the cost, go all the way with Jesus.

We were greatly encouraged when the Executive Committee appointed Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carner to assist in teaching at the Bible School. Mr. Carner has carried the heavy end of teaching most of the third year course. Mrs. Carner has had classes with the women. God has made them a real blessing to the lives they have touched. We are also very grateful to Mr. A. I. Garrison, who has taken time from his arduous duties in Bhusawal to come each week and teach four periods in Bible exposition. His ministry has been an inspiration and blessing to the students. In addition to the
classes for the young men, regular classes were held for the wives of married students.

Let me briefly outline an ordinary day at Bible School. Each student does his own cooking. At seven a.m. a bell is rung for work. All hands turn to and do assigned tasks, cleaning stables, weeding in the fields or garden, cutting wood, carrying water, or in short, anything that needs to be done. Eight-thirty to noon there are classes and chapel; twelve to two p.m. recess for preparing meals; two to four-thirty p.m. classes; four-thirty to five-thirty work again; five-thirty to eight games, grinding, cooking meals; eight to nine study hour. After nine-o’clock they are ready to go to bed.

We thank God for making it possible to build six new rooms for married couples. We now have accommodation for fifteen or sixteen couples. All these rooms will be occupied next term. We are also grateful to friends in the homeland, especially the Sunday School of the Toronto Gospel Tabernacle, and the World Wide Prayer and Missionary Union, who have made it possible for us to install a much-needed water system. We are glad to report that there is water on top for the students and bungalow. At present the water is being pumped by a windmill. A small crude oil engine will also be needed to supplement the wind power. We also thank God and the friends at home who have so faithfully sent in financial support for the training of these young lives.

Our Bible School is organized into a church on slightly different lines from our other churches. We consider every student, regardless of his church or mission affiliations, an active member of our church. The principal of the Bible Training School is nominally the pastor, but most of the preaching on Sundays is done by the students. We are treated to a wide variety of sermons. When we think that most of these young men only three or four years previously were idolaters, we realize in a new way the miracle God has wrought in these
lives. Thursday afternoon prayer meetings are an inspiration when one after another the students give their testimonies.

Sunday mornings eleven teams composed of students hold regular village Sunday schools in Nargaon and eight neighbouring villages. Please pray with us that this seed which is sown will bear fruit in the hearts of the boys and girls in these Sunday schools.

Last year the Marathi Synod asked the Nargaon Church to contribute five rupees a month to the Central Pastor's fund. This looked like a lot, as heretofore the total church income was little more than five rupees per month. When school reopened and our congregation reassembled, we placed the matter before them and after exhorting on the blessings of giving, asked those who would care to do so to write a pledge. The response was whole-hearted and beyond anything we had anticipated. The pledge went above eighteen rupees a month. The Church income for the past two months with the regular offerings has exceeded twenty-five rupees a month. For four months of the year our church is very small, due to the students returning to their homes and appointments.

We thank God for the spirit of co-operation there has been in the school this past year. Please pray with us that each student may not only receive a knowledge of God's Word while in Bible School, but that each one may also receive an anointing of God's Holy Spirit for service.

The Fire Spreads

A. Helférs

The first Sunday Mr. Bakht Singh spoke in the united evangelistic meetings in Ahmedabad, we and the teachers of the two primary schools motored from Dolka. We could attend only one meeting. On our way back the teachers spoke
of the peculiar realization of God's awesome presence in the meeting.

The Sunday following the Mehmadabad Convention, Yohan the Pastor, gave a flaming message on prayer—prayer upon our knees and with intense agony of spirit. It was a short message, but it acted as a clarion call for all to humble themselves before God. Almost instantaneously the deeps of souls were broken up when the young men teachers earnestly sought God. Many seemed to be in agony of soul and the boys and girls all over the church began to call upon God. The smaller children, for whom there is a separate service in another building, had already been dismissed. They were attracted to the church by the volume of audible prayer. They came into the meeting and also joined in prayer. The Pastor asked me to help close the meeting but this was not possible until ten o'clock that evening. The young people were desperate and each prayed in agony and there was no stopping them. As they prayed through to victory they began to sing. Then they testified, or made confessions. These meetings went on each Sunday through the Easter Convention a month later and on to the close of the schools.

During those days God answered many prayers. There were so many of the students who needed salvation. And we had felt heavily burdened for them throughout the year. It had been discouraging to think that our best teacher was planning on leaving us for a higher salary. But in these meetings God was answering many prayers before our very eyes.

The pastor's little son of about seven years was unaware of the blessing in the first meeting and went home where he fell asleep while waiting for the family to return. Next morning when he learned of the blessed meeting the evening before, he wept and said he too wanted to come and pray. He never missed another meeting, and was right up at the front of the church on his face before God. His prayers would put older people to shame for their content and urgency.
The young teacher came face to face with God that evening and settled his life’s plans. He gave up all his seeming bright prospects and dedicated his life to the service of his Lord. It was no easy matter for him to surrender, but God is graciously leading him step by step.

Some money had been stolen from a boy in the hostel and we were not able to trace the thief. When the young people were convicted that evening, one lad got up and confessed the theft, asked for forgiveness and said he would repay the boy the fee money he had stolen.

During the Easter Convention when Brother Ringenberg was ministering to us, a little fellow came to the bungalow with another of about his own age. It was the sweater’s boy who wanted to be “made a Christian”. He and his sister attend the school as day scholars and come to Sunday school, and now they both wish to follow the Lord Jesus. The little boy has already learned to read and is busy studying the New Testament. When he comes to something which puzzles him, he brings the matter to the house-master’s wife who explains it to his satisfaction.

A young man, who has passed both the Vernacular Final and the University Matriculation examinations, working as a clerk in a government office with a good salary, in his practical, stoical way, got up and testified that he once was blind but now he could see. A few months since he has shown the depth of his consecration by resigning his very promising and permanent service with government and by taking a position with the mission at half the salary.

We were invited to speak at the annual convention at Ashapur Church during Easter. Some of the young people came along and set the church there on fire. God’s Spirit came upon us and some of the older members who had once experienced revival blessing began to chip off the burnt-out parts on their torches and soon one could see them being re-lit with the heavenly fire. A lad in his teens, a leader among his set, who led the boys into wickedness, was so
tremendously convicted that he cried out in agony. He got up and confessed his sins to the astonishment of the older people, and begged for forgiveness, promising to lead a different life. Another young man was so overcome with grief over his own condition that he became faint. He now is the leader of their Young People's Society. These two young people, with a few others who were blessed that day, wish to have us remember them in prayer that they may stand faithful in their village and that they may be the means of the salvation of the many young people there.

It is true that much of the intense emotion of those days has now subsided in our meetings. The schools closed and the children dispersed to their homes. The communal riots in Ahmedabad affected the normal life of the whole countryside. Nevertheless, there are deep, lasting results. The young men teachers stayed at Dholka during the summer vacation and went with the pastor and people of the church to the surrounding villages during the Week of Witness. They would leave very early in the morning in a band, walking to several villages to hold open-air meetings. They had some food along with them and would continue their work until dark. They thoroughly enjoyed their ministry of witnessing this year and say that it was the best year. They felt as fresh in body and mind in the evening after travelling all day on foot and speaking as they did in the morning when they first left.

Months have passed and we are now in a new school year with many new students, and our girls hostel, especially, is overflowing its housing capacity, but the Lord is continuing to lead the young on to deeper things. The promising trained teacher has taken over the head-mastership and brought new life into the Boys School.
SECTION V
GENERAL

News and Notes

Concerning Ourselves

Reproduced on the frontispiece of this Report are snapshots as they appeared to a candid camera at Conference time. We thought you might like to get a better idea of how we look than is possible in a small group picture. Some have had to be cut out of group pictures, enlarged, and fitted together. They are presented without pride and without apology, hoping that they will be helpful to any of our friends who feel that they could pray for each of us individually and understandingly in this way. We are going to need your prayers, both for ourselves and for the Church of Christ in India which we represent, in the difficult days that are ahead as the war moves closer to India.

We have been much concerned about four of our number who should have been with us before now. Miss Blanche Palmer, a new recruit, sailed from California in November, along with two ladies of the Ramabai Mukti Mission. Their ship was at or near Manila when the war began, and we have had no news from them since then.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Gustafson and Mr. Raymond Smith also sailed in November. The war overtook them at Honolulu. Word has now reached us that they have reached a place of safety, and still have their faces toward India, if a way can be found to resume their journey.
For Your Information

Mails are much slower since Pacific mail routes are closed, and it is possible that some of your letters to or from us were lost in the first outbreak of hostilities. We hope that you will not regard this as sufficient cause to stop writing. If letters come through with much difficulty think of how much more they mean to those who receive them. So, perhaps we should all write more letters.

Many of you have been supporting evangelists or children in our schools, and we hope that the war will not be allowed to hinder your gifts reaching the field. If those who have hitherto sent gifts directly to the field wish to be sure that they will still reach us safely they may be sent through our Treasurer, Rev. Wm. Christian, 260 West 44th Street, New York. If these are clearly marked for what purpose intended they will be forwarded by cablegram, and will thus reach us more quickly and more certainly.

For Praise

Mr. Fred Schelander is now well again, after his attack of para-typhoid fever, with three relapses. He is gaining in strength and is able to do some district work.

Mrs. N. H. Phillips, in Mukti Mission, has passed her first examination in Marathi, with honors. We rejoice with her.

We are also glad to report that Miss L. C. Burley has passed her Higher Standard Language examination in Gujarati.

For Prayer

Miss Emma Krater is still ill in a hospital in South India. Her trouble seems to be arrested but not yet healed. Her spirit is brave, and she is looking to the Lord for healing.

Our veteran missionary, Mr. C. W. Schelander, who has retired in India, but is still serving the Lord as he has strength, has been in poor health for some months. He has now
learned that his trouble is of a serious nature. He has decided against an operation, saying, “Let me fall into the hands of the Lord”. Please pray for him.

Six of our missionaries who should have gone on furlough this year are necessarily detained in India because of war conditions. Some of them are very much in need of a rest. There are problems also concerning children who were to have gone home this year, to continue their education. They will appreciate your prayers.

You will note many requests for prayer in the various reports. These need not be listed again here. But perhaps you should mark them for remembrance at the Throne.

STOP PRESS NOTICE

It is with profound gratitude to God that we are able to add that Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Gustafson and Rev. Raymond H. Smith have just arrived safely in India, after a hazardous journey.
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<td>Special Locations</td>
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<td>527</td>
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## MISSIONARY DIRECTORY, 1942

**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 CUTLER  

**Anjangaon**  
REV. AND MRS. FRED W. SCHELANDER  

**Chandur (Ry.)**  
REV. AND MRS. TILMAN AMSTUTZ  

**Khamgaon**  
MISS HARRIET BEARDSLEE  
MISS BERNICE STEED  
MISS AGNETE HANSEN  
MISS E. KRATER  
MISS JULIA DERR  

**Malkapur**  
(Vacant)  

**Murtizapur**  
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**  
MISS HELEN BUSHFIELD  
(Vacant)  

**Chalisgaon**  
(Vacant)  

### GUJARAT

**Ahmedabad**  
MRS. RUTH G. BRABAZON  
MISS LUella BURLEY  

**Dholka (Ahmedabad District)**  
REV. AND MRS. AUGUST HELFERS  
MISS MYRA WING  

**Sanand**  
(Vacant)  

**Viramgam**  
REV. AND MRS. J. S. RINGENBERG  

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

### SPECIAL LOCATIONS

Kedgaon, Poona District  
(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. GUSTAFSON  
REV. AND MRS. E. R. CARNER  
REV. AND MRS. LAUREN R. CARNER  
MISS EDITH MOORE  
MISS MARTHENA RAMSON  

### RETIRED IN INDIA

MRS. MARTHA RAMSEY, Akola  
REV. C. W. SCHELANDER, Anjangaon  
REV. AND MRS. L. J. CUTLER, Amraoti  
MISS CORA HANSEN, Mehmadabad  
MISS HELEN BUSHFIELD, Jalgaon  
MISS E. WELLS, Sirur, Poona District  

* En route to India—not yet arrived.