Part of Largest Temple in South India

Annual Report Number
1948
CONTENTS

THE FATHER'S GREAT FAITHFULNESS  ...  By Raymond H. Smith  (Page 1)
  Mission Chairman

Akola
Open Doors Everywhere  ...  ...  By Alice and Elmore Eicher  (Page 4)
As the Twig is Bent  ...  ...  By Bernice and Albert Shaw  (Page 5)

Amraoti
Touring Around Amraoti  ...  ...  By Miss Marthena Ransom  (Page 6)

Anjangaon
Trials and Triumphs  ...  ...  By Lauren Carner  (Page 8)

Chandur
Freedom from Bondage  ...  ...  By Tilman and Esther Amstutz  (Page 9)

Khamgaon
A Little Child Shall Lead Them  ...  By Miss Edith Moore  (Page 11)
Their Eyes Were Opened  ...  ...  By Miss Bernice Steed  (Page 12)

Malkapur
Report of the Malkapur District  ...  ...  By Fred Schelander  (Page 13)

Murtizapur
Fruits of Repentence  ...  ...  By Alle and Mary Garrison  (Page 14)

Bhusaval and Jalgaon
A Varied Ministry  ...  ...  By Mrs. Fred Schelander and Rev. R. K. Cutler  (Page 15)

Nargaon
Bible School Blessings  ...  ...  By Gerald Carner  (Page 17)

Ahmedabad
Property, Preaching, and Preparation  ...  By Louis L. King  (Page 19)

Dholka
Revival Blessings at Dholka School  ...  ...  By Miss Luella Burley  (Page 20)

Mehmedabad
Hindus Confess God's Power  ...  ...  By Mrs. Ruth Brabazon  (Page 21)

Viramgam
Great Things Whereof We are Glad  ...  By Virginia and Paul Morris  (Page 23)
The Father's Great Faithfulness

By RAYMOND H. SMITH, Mission Chairman

"The rivers . . . shall not overflow thee . . . for I am the Lord . . . the Saviour".—Isaiah 43:2, 3

The song which we always sing on the opening night of conference, "Great is Thy Faithfulness", is the deep expression of our hearts as we contemplate the year which has passed. There have been times of stress and strain, of physical testings and discouragement, of threatening clouds of government restrictions, and of communal strife. But time and again, the Lord’s faithfulness has been manifested, the rivers have not overflowed us, and He has been our Saviour in time of need. His hand has provided, and His compassions have failed not. To Him we give grateful thanks.

National Affairs

The C.P. and Berar Government, after putting through the Safety Act for another year, passed an amendment annulling the section which last year forbade baptism of non-Christians without government sanction.

The Constituent Assembly in Delhi is putting the finishing touches to the Constitution. The right to practice and propagate one's own religion is among the fundamental rights guaranteed to all. It is most interesting to note that the head of the drafting committee is Dr. Ambedkar, the outcaste leader, who has been most bitter in his denunciation of caste injustice to his fellow outcastes. Through education and experience, he is well fitted to hold this high position. The outcastes almost worship him; and the emergence of their leader has tended to stop the previous drift toward Christianity.

Crops in Berar and Khandesh are fair, poor in Gujerat. Both food and cloth control are to be reimposed, with the usual deprivations, and black markets usually associated with such a system. Because of food control, we have been hindered for a number of years in holding rallies and camp meetings which bring much spiritual blessing to the people. We surely need to pray that this hindrance to Christian growth be obviated.
Property

The purchase of a plot in Ahmedabad in February has given us for the first time some real estate there. In that city is a tremendous field for evangelism and Bible teaching. $25,000 at least are needed to do the building we require there. The plot is located in a residential section with frequent bus services to city and country. We are thankful to the Board for making this purchase possible.

The purchase of land and the erection of a station in Akot is the most pressing item in the Marathi area. Anjangaon District, our most fruitful area, is too large to be handled by one couple from one station; and the additional financial burden of touring and helping workers in such a large area is more than one couple can well bear.

Education

During the last cold season, there was a definite working of the Spirit in the hearts of the girls and boys in the Dholka Preparatory School. The revival services held in the Akola school in August produced good results. Our aim in our school work is to produce born-again Christians with fruits of the Spirit. We need revival in our schools as well as in all other parts of our work.

When the Gustafsons left on furlough, the Gujerat Bible School was closed; but we are hoping it can be reopened in July. With Miss Steed’s return to the field, the Women’s Bible School in Khamgaon was reopened, and at the present time, there are twenty students there. There are thirty-six men and women studying at Nargaon. We also have two men from Gujerat and two men from the Marathi area studying in the Biblical Seminary in Yeotmal.

Summer school for younger workers was held during the rains in Amraoti and in Mehmedabad. A special campaign in adult literacy was put on during the hot season in the three Berar Church Councils. Our people have a real incentive to learn to read, for this opens the Bible to them. In September, Mr. G. L. Carner presented a new monthly paper with large type and easy words so that the newly literate can have a paper all their own. Already 700 subscriptions have been secured to this commendable enterprise.

Mr. Smalley’s Visit

After a lapse of fourteen years, we again have a Board representative with us for our conference. Dr. Simpson visited India in 1893. In 1910, Mr. Funk paid the field a visit while returning from China. In 1919, Dr. Glover, then Foreign Secretary, came to India.
Paul Rader, our president, came in 1921, and Dr. Walter Turnbull in '23. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Williams were present in our 1926 conference after a visit to the Philippines. In 1934, Dr. and Mrs. Shuman visited us. We are grateful now to the Board for sending Mr. Smalley at this time. We appreciate his sympathetic approach to our work, and trust that he will carry home a picture of this field that will enable the Board to deal with us according to our needs viewed in the light of the other nineteen fields which make up our foreign missionary enterprise.

Church and Evangelistic Work

The year 1947 closed with 3,232 members on our church rolls, and baptisms numbered 175. Giving in the churches came to Rs. 21,588, an increase over the previous year of Rs. 2,317. (Divide these figures by three to get an approximation of the amount in dollars.) Our Christian community totals over 6,000.

Both city and country Christians are in danger of conforming to the world about them. The country people's danger is the tendency to follow heathen customs and marriage arrangements; the city people's danger is from allowing secular ambitions to crowd out the spiritual and a leaning toward worldliness as we know it at home. A self-governing church needs to know how to walk in the Spirit.

We are thankful that there are more young people in training for Christian service than there were ten years ago, but their number is still inadequate.

Our need for revival is desperate. It is greater than can be put into words. The Spirit must implant in the hearts of our young people a desire to have the things of God. Our leaders must themselves see the necessity of stressing the new birth, repentance, and righteous living. The villages often respond to the Gospel better than large towns, and we have a responsibility to thousands in our districts who have never heard the Gospel.

We must not close on a despondent note. The promise is that the rivers shall not overflow us. We see destructive elements about us and the enemy coming in like a flood. We cannot deny these things, but we can fall upon our knees in continued intercession that the Lord our Saviour shall yet save the church and that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
"The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand".—Psalm 121:5.

During the past year, the clouds of civil war were dark throughout this area. We thank God that the storm has passed, and fear in the heart of man in towns and villages has been replaced by a new hope and a fresh outlook.

Our Christian workers find open doors everywhere and respectful attention to the message. There were no baptisms during the year because of government restrictions. We praise God that these have now been removed. This seeming hindrance is not without good effects however; for the inquirers have been instructed that much longer and should be that much more firmly established in the faith.

Last summer, each circle pastor conducted adult literacy classes of two to six weeks’ duration. We had four classes in all, and two were especially successful. It was a great joy to see adults who had not been able to read and write, reading the Bible for themselves and answering questions from the Word of God which they had been unable to read a few week previously.

One woman, the mother of five children, was one of the best students. At the time of the examination, she was suffering from sore eyes; but she did not let that deter her. Her sister also was in that class but was unable to take her examination because two of her children were ill and her husband had a huge and painful abscess. There was no hope for Dagadu in the natural; but we anointed him with oil and prayed for him. He humbly confessed his sins to the Lord who healed him. However, the Lord took the two sick children to Himself. The parents bore this shock bravely. Since then, the mother passed away suddenly after a brief illness. Truly the testing has been severe on this child of God; but let us pray for him that he will come through the fire refined for the Master’s use.

Satan has made inroads into some of our village Christian communities. Please pray with us for real revival in these groups.

During the Christian Home Festival this year, volunteer groups of young men from the Akola church took part in village evangelistic meetings in testimony and song. We took one group with us to a village where there is just one Christian family. They have been Christians only two years, but they have progressed wonderfully in that time. Ranuji and his family had their home and yard decorated with
lights and large, colorful Scripture posters. Soon after our arrival, relatives and neighbours gathered and we had an interested audience. Our young men gave testimonies of how Jesus saved them and changed their lives. One could sense the presence of the Spirit convicting hearts. There are now five families in that village who wish to become Christians.

We are in great need of more Indian workers in our district. There are whole countries without resident Gospel workers. Please pray with us that this need may be met.

‘As the Twig is Bent’

By Bernice and Albert Shaw

We had hoped to be able to report to conference that our new classroom building had been erected; but due to the unavailability of cement and roofing, we have been hindered. Bricks are neatly stacked in one corner of the compound and the doors and windows are ready. We thank the Lord for sending in the needed funds for this project.

In August, Mr. Davis of the Free Methodist Mission met with us for special meetings. His simple, but forceful messages brought over two dozens of boys to a realization of their spiritual need. One night, two boys came crying to the speaker. One couldn’t sleep, and the other wouldn’t try to sleep until they were sure that the Lord had saved them.

Vithal, the Hindu convert of last year’s meetings, has a real burden for his family. He desires to go to Bible school later to prepare for the Lord’s service. Asked if his father won’t reject him and discontinue his education, he expressed confidence that the Lord would see him through all his trials because of his determination to serve the Master.

Johnrao, an outcaste boy, was saved during these meetings. He, too, wants to attend Bible school after finishing here.

We have two high school boys here who will enter Bible training in a few years. One of them, on his own, suggested that he and I meet for special prayer each Sunday evening to pray for the Alliance work in India. These meetings have attracted others of a like spiritual bent.

Two of the biggest surprises for us were the conversions of two high school boys living in our hostel. Gunwant has such a plastic spirit that it is its own undoing. Easily led, this boy has shown a humble spirit in spiritual matters; but he has backslidden several times. Now he has confessed to stealing, lying, smoking, and even taking...
snuff. He has given up cigarettes, and has publicly broken his snuff bottle. Then, he and Sumant began going up on our roof each afternoon to pray.

Sumant has lied, cheated, and misappropriated funds (advanced to him to meet educational expenses in town) ever since we have had supervision of the school. Shortly before the special meetings, he found himself involved in a domestic difficulty. At that time, his spirit must have been broken; for he cried, silently but unmistakably; and his entire attitude has been better ever since. The meetings completed the work begun in his heart several nights before.

One is never completely satisfied with his ministry. He is always wishing to see more people live Spirit-filled lives; and rightly so. But we do thank the Lord for His visitation in the Akola mission school. Remember to pray for the teachers and us as we lead these ninety young lives entrusted to our care that we may train them in the way that they should go.

Touring around Amraoti

By MISS MARTHENA RANSOM

Early in the year, the Carners, Capps, and Mr. Cutler left for America; and I was very much alone as far as human fellowship goes; but the Lord has been very gracious during these months. Our hearts were saddened by the loss of Francisrao, one of our faithful senior evangelists whose zeal for the Lord and concern for the church lasted up to the end. His going meant a gracious release from a long illness; but a great loss to his family and the church.

During one camping programme, we met a Christian who had given herself over to the service of Satan. She denied that she had forsaken the Lord; but refused to attend our meetings because she had made vows to another god. I talked and prayed with her but she was utterly insensible to her dangerous position. A lad who was saved last year seems to be standing true to the Lord. He came to me for prayer and brought another youth who desired to become a Christian. These, and others, told me later that they pray what simple prayers they can and that they do not work on Sundays. They are hungry for Christian fellowship. They surely need our prayers.

Once, Miss Shrum came to help me, giving Bible stories to the children. She had a few difficult experiences for a new missionary as far as filth and smells are concerned; but I rejoiced to see her adaptability
to any situation. We were invited to one of the village homes for dinner. There was plenty of dirt added for flavor; but the real test came when our host came forward with the “dessert”. He presented us with handfuls of roasted grain drawn from his cap which was caked with cocoanut oil and dirt. After twenty-two years in India, it was all I could do to swallow it; but Miss Shrum, a new missionary, accepted the “dainty”; and without blinking an eye, she ate with seeming relish.

Marthabai gave a sweet testimony of how her husband had been terribly ill, and Hindu neighbours had tried to get them to worship idols. “We told them”, she said, “whether the Lord heals or destroys, we shall worship only Him’. He heard our prayer and healed my husband”.

In January, we had one of the best camps I’ve ever been permitted to enjoy. Near the village of Temba, we worked among the Christians and inquirers of five surrounding villages. We had large classes for them in the camp and in Temba. Large crowds of caste and outcaste Hindus met with the Christians and listened night after night to a series of messages on the life of Christ, illustrated by flannelgraph. Several times, we were very conscious of the presence of the Lord convicting souls of sin.

One day, a young Christian’s father was saved and the nephew of another Christian. The next morning, two men came from a nearby village and were saved. We walked with them to their village and led their wives also to the Lord. A month later, we had a precious baptismal service in which eight men and women confessed their Lord in baptism.

Little Shamrao told his father, “I’m not a Hindu any more. See, I’ve cut off my shendi”. (caste lock of hair.) The father asked, “If you’re not a Hindu, what are you?” Shamrao replied that he was a Christian and wanted his father to be one too. The boy has truly put his faith in Jesus Christ.

Some of our village people, though illiterate, can teach us lessons of faith in the Lord. After a daughter had lain unconscious for three days, I suggested we take her to the hospital. The parents wanted to pray about it some more first. In answer to their faith, the Lord healed the girl. Twice a Hindu family called for the Christian pastor to pray over their sick children. His prayer of faith brought healing from the Lord.

Please pray for Ramrao, a Hindu, who testifies, “Christ healed me of dysentery and made me walk. I am perfectly well today; and as long as I live, I shall never forget what He has done for me”. This man is reading the Scriptures and seeking the Way of Life.
Trials and Triumphs

By LAUREN CAENER

The Lord’s work, in our section, apart from the effects of the anti-conversion law, has continued to prosper. Non-Christian people and their leaders have been friendlier and on special occasions have given due recognition to the Christian community.

At the Thanksgiving Day function at Daryapur, with many officials and Congress leaders present, the local pastor was asked to pray. When this formerly outcaste, village youth arose and with a clear, strong voice addressed himself to the most high God, in an intimate manner, a reverent hush descended upon the audience. When the meeting was over, those present expressed wonder at the majestic simplicity and fervency of that Christian prayer.

At the annual Rin Mochin fair, the police closed all cinemas and side shows on the Sunday night following Gandhi’s death. Consequently large crowds, with nothing to do, came into the evangelistic tent to hear the Gospel.

The anti-conversion law decreased the number of baptisms. Following the fourteen baptisms last March, there has been only one since then. The political trend has changed the attitude of the Mahars, (a certain group among the outcastes) who, until lately, were most responsive to the Gospel. Formerly their leaders advised their conversion; but now they are encouraged to retain their identity and demand special rights from the government. Caste Hindus have on special occasion threatened violence and economic boycott to those who would change their religion.

The economic and food situations have adversely affected the work. Camp meetings have had to be cancelled sometimes. At other times, arrangements were difficult because of the shortages and high prices. Thus our village Christians have been denied a vital source of spiritual nourishment for their growth as babes in Christ.

Despite these elements, God has given victories. Much blessing attended the annual camp meeting in March when Mr. and Mrs. Schelander ministered the Word in the power of the Spirit. At a prayer conference in August, messages delivered by pastors and lay leaders showed prophetic vision and a diligent study of the Bible. Our circle preachers have shown a renewed sense of responsibility and disciplined effort in shepherding their flocks. One of them, a student who has had only one term of Bible school, has shown unusual ability and zeal in his work. His enthusiasm, his love for the church, and his willingness to work anywhere at anything have been a joy to us all and a source of revival blessing in his circle where God has given him souls.
During the hot months of April and May, these brethren conducted eleven literacy classes in different villages when about one hundred men and women learned to read the Bible. In the most literal sense, these servants of the Lord have in this way brought the light of the Word of God to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The faith, courage, and witness of some of our people are reasons for thanking God and pressing forward. Yashwant was bitten by a cobra. He went back to the village from the field where he was working, called the Christians together, and requested prayer. Hindus tried to persuade him to use idolatrous practices and incantations to effect a cure. He firmly refused, choosing rather to die than deny his Lord. Christ miraculously delivered him from the sting of the serpent to the wonder of the Hindus.

There are others like Yashwant: Gomaji, who witnessed a good confession before his persecuting, Hindu employer, also triumphed over sorrow at the death of his daughter. Eighty non-Christians were attracted by his faith to the girl’s funeral. Gulab, a young caste Hindu defied the hostility of a notoriously anti-Christian village to become a follower of the Lord.

There are others who “out of weakness were made strong”, who faithfully serve our Saviour in sunshine and in sorrow, amidst poverty, toil, and squalor of the scattered villages on the plains of North Berar.

Freedom from Bondage

By TILMAN AND ESTHER AMSTUTZ

“Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”.—Gal. 5:1.

We are in a land which greatly rejoices in its newly acquired freedom. Statesmen have taken their stand against any force which would seek to enslave us economically. The Church of Christ in India, although redeemed and set free, is in danger of being ensnared into a yoke of bondage. Examples of such forces are: contracting marriages with Hindus, observing their festivals, and reverting to former customs. Only by constant shepherding will our flock be preserved.

In the earlier part of March, we were happy to have twelve baptisms in Mhaispur and seven in Tembhi. Others wished to be baptized later; but the anti-conversion law had come into effect; so these candidates are still waiting. We rejoiced to see the Lord’s working in hearts at a
camp meeting. From the testimonies given, it was evident that He was speaking to His people. We also held a youth rally at that time.

Our annual Week of Witness was observed in May during which time several groups of our people went out to preach and testify for the Saviour. We are glad that our lay people have a concern for the salvation of those about them. Many Scripture portions were distributed.

While we were doing some repair work on the bungalow, we had times of prayer with the workmen. One of them was sick unto death; but the Lord raised him up in answer to prayer. One of the masons' daughters was very sick and she, too, was restored after we united in prayer. These families, and others who serve us, want to become Christian because God has put a desire into their hearts to know Him. Pray for them and us as we instruct them.

At a pastors' retreat during the rains, our men poured out their hearts in earnest intercession for the lost and the wandering ones in their churches. We are encouraged in seeing their burden for the people.

There is hardly a day that people do not call at our house for religious discussions. Mrs. Amstutz has had frequent opportunities to help women in our home as well as speak with them in their homes. Our Bible-women are busy speaking with high caste and outcaste women alike.

Our Sunday School and youth societies are small but encouraging. Several are awaiting baptism and we are have more visitors in our classes. We are privileged in being permitted to preach regularly in a leprosy clinic where a Christian doctor is in charge.

We are especially concerned for Arvi, a large district where, at present, we have no resident worker. Please pray that we shall soon find a suitable location there. We wish to see many more saved in our cottage meetings, and in open-air services.
'A Little Child Shall Lead Them'

By MISS EDITH MOORE

Since the school opened in June, fourteen girls have been saved, and there have been twenty-four baptisms. There is a good spirit of prayer and many are burdened for the salvation of their relatives. Testimonies are spontaneous; and our hearts are filled with praise as we hear them tell of their deliverance from darkness, their joy in forgiveness of sins, their love for the Lord.

Their faith is manifest in trusting the Lord for their bodies. Little Pushba’s ear had been hurting her for a number of days and she came one evening to tell me, “Auntie, don’t put any medicine in my ear. Let’s just pray, and the Lord will heal it”. Of course, the Lord met her faith; and she has had no pain since then.

Seeing these bright, happy faces of the girls who have been transformed from their heathen background and knowing what the Lord has done for them makes us rejoice the more in our Saviour. We feel that it has been worth all the expense to run the school, just to see their lives.

Surely the ministry of teaching the Word to young people and helping them by counsel and prayer day after day and month after month during their formative years is one of the most valuable ministries we have. We desire to educate them; but their spiritual training is vastly more important.

We praise the Lord for our teachers and the ministry they and missionaries have among our girls. Our matron, although she has been ill occasionally, has a valuable ministry in the school. Her teaching by word and deed have made a lasting impression upon the girls.

We desire that you pray with us that each girl might be saved; for they need power over sins with which Satan would seek to tempt them. It is not easy for children to testify in their home villages; but the Lord can give them a testimony that may bring blessing to someone else.

While the children are with us, they learn practical as well as spiritual and academic lessons. They have daily responsibility of cleaning rooms and the compound, sewing, cooking, weeding gardens, and picking cotton in season, as well as other tasks necessary in the maintenance of a school.

The older girls teach Sunday School classes, lead in prayer meetings, and young people’s services, even bringing short messages from the Word. It is indeed gratifying to see how well they can conduct meetings and speak in public. They learn to look to the Lord for His help.
These services have given several courage to speak to their loved ones during the summer holidays; and they had the joy of telling us upon their return of the salvation of parents or brothers and sisters.

Do pray that the Lord will bless these girls and continue to make them a blessing when they leave us.

‘Their Eyes Were Opened’

BY MISS BERNICE STEED

Since the Women’s Bible School at Khamgaon had been closed for a year, in reopening the school, there have been ample opportunities to learn lessons of dependence upon God. Almost until the time of opening, no teacher had promised to help us. But God graciously put it upon the heart of a former teacher, now married, to come to us for the first term. Her gift of imparting the Word and her example of devotion to the Lord have been invaluable in giving us a good start.

Old Sagunabai, one of our most ardent students, is like a mother to the younger women, for she so well understands the problems of village girls.

Of the twenty students now with us (from five different missions), six came either illiterate or newly literate. They are making remarkable progress even taking turns with morning devotions. They spend much of their spare time with the Word. It is gratifying to hear them apply the Bible to their own lives. Gaya read the story of Zaccheus and remarked, “I was like Zaccheus. I took four annas (eight cents) when I should only have taken two; but God has changed my heart”. Shanta added, “I used to make one quart of milk into two by adding water before I sold it; But God’s Word has shown me that that is wrong”.

When I saw the eagerness with which the girls came to the Bible school, I felt amply repaid for having returned to the heat and dust of India. They told of the months during which time they had looked forward to the reopening of the school. Some had real obstacles removed by prayer. Gaya worked double shifts in the fields and gathered wood in order to save money for clothes and other expenses. She was determined that nothing would hinder her coming.

Again and again, in their testimonies, I have heard them say, “My eyes have been opened since coming to Bible school”. We can teach these women truth; but we cannot make them “see” it. When we see eyes opened spiritually, we know that the Master has been working in our midst.
One real evidence that God has opened understanding and worked in their hearts, is the burden that many of them have for the unsaved. Some will have to return to difficult circumstances at home. Our prayer is that they will be so grounded in Christ that they will find Him sufficient for all things and that they will be faithful and true witnesses for Him. Please pray for them.

*Report of the Malkapur District*

**By FRED SCHELANDER**

Malkapur is one of our oldest stations; but for six years previous to this one, it has been without a missionary. Whenever we have been short of missionaries, it has almost always been Malkapur which has been left vacant first. There are very few Christians in the entire area; and if some district had to be without a resident missionary, this area seemed least likely to suffer by his absence.

There have been few baptisms, for Satan has given us great opposition. On the other hand, God has given us joy and blessing this past year.

Taking time out to supervise property repairs and the shortage of evangelistic helpers combined to prevent a full touring season. The witness has gone out in the bazar and in several surrounding villages. The people are friendly to the Gospel, for which we praise God.

More than thirty persons requested baptism during the year; but many of these withdrew their application upon receiving definite instruction and a clear understanding of what baptism implies. Five were baptized at Easter. One convert, who, with his wife, had been baptized elsewhere years ago, had lapsed into a heathen practice at the urging of his family. His wife had been childless; so he consented to take a second wife. Both he and his first wife were taking renewed interest in the Gospel; and they came to us, asking us to instruct and baptize wife number two. She seems the most earnest of the three.

For most of the year, we have been renting a small reading room in Malkapur. The Scripture verses on the front attract the attention of passersby, many of whom stop to ask the Indian worker the purpose of the room. Thus he has had many opportunities to witness for Christ.

We thank the Lord for the two young workers whom He has sent us to help in the evangelistic programme; and we look forward to a more extensive and fruitful touring season this year.
'Fruits of Repentence'

By ALLE AND MARY GARRISON

"I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared . . . that they should repent and turn unto God, doing works worthy of repentence".—Acts 26:19–20.

We had engaged a young Hindu as a servant. His wife had been baptized, and he desired it too, but we had seen no signs of repentance. During some special meetings, he came under deep conviction for sin. He promised the Lord that he wouldn’t eat until he had the assurance that his sins were forgiven. He came to us with tears and deeply repented, promising the Lord to make everything right. These were the fruits we had been awaiting. Soon afterward, we had the joy of baptizing him.

One of our pastor’s sons got far away from his childhood training while in the army. Seeing his waywardness, the pastor became very burdened for his son’s salvation. We joined him in intercession. After the boy attempted suicide, his eyes were opened concerning his state. Full repentence was followed by forgiveness and joy. He entered Bible school; and at the completion of his first year, he is out preaching as a student worker.

It has been a joy to us to visit our villages, ministering the Word and anointing many who were sick. It has been so encouraging to them when the Lord manifested His healing power in their bodies. We have several candidates for baptism who have been waiting for the lifting of government restrictions.

Motirao, one of our circle pastors, had an opportunity on Gandhi’s birthday celebration to give a Gospel witness. The Karanja municipality had a programme in which some from all faiths to part. Our brother represented Christianity; and when his turn came, he read some Scripture and gave a brief message. The large gathering included many officials and professional people.

On the day proclaimed as a day of thanksgiving for the victory of the Indian army in suppressing the uprising in Hyderabad, we invited all the local officials to our church. Near the close of the programme, an old Hindu official asked to speak. He told us of the benefits derived from the cross of Christ, and thereupon urged communal harmony.

A Christian servant of ours felt the Lord wanted him to move to another town and support himself while he preached the Gospel. He had had Bible training. He took up soldering and tinkering for a living for himself and family. We were uncertain that his faith and energy would suffice to meet his need; but the Lord has prospered
him. Sunday school classes are well-attended; and, judging by the offerings he brings us, he is teaching them to give liberally.

Several distressing incidents have brought upon the pastor and us a deep burden to see the enemy defeated and the Lord glorified in our midst. As a result, in several meetings lately, there have been confessions of failure and sin.

The Lord has enabled us to minister to the salvation of souls and the healing of bodies. If we continue obedient to the heavenly vision, we may expect Paul's Lord and ours to work mightily here in India too.

A Varied Ministry

By MRS. FRED SCELANDER AND REV. E. K. CUTLER

Since Gandhi's death and the suppression of the organization which slew him, the general attitude of the public toward Christians in Jalgaon has greatly improved.

Members of our Jalgaon church work in important positions for the government and private industry. If all these were revived as they should be (and we see signs of it), what wonderful opportunities they can have to evangelize their city. Public preaching isn't much allowed, yet their personal testimony can be for the glory of God.

Mr. Schelander held special meetings here several times and many Hindus came because pictures were shown. At one time, with the aid of two Indian preachers, we conducted classes for children and young people in the afternoons. At night, we held general meetings and the attendance and interest were very satisfactory.

When the Jalgaon mission bungalow was reopened four months ago, we noticed that young people were not attending our worship services. Praise the Lord, He has enabled us to get a youth society started and it has been growing nicely for the past three and a half months. These are mostly young men; for our young women are mostly nurses who do not all have free time together. So we have met with them in smaller groups when convenient. We are glad that they are free to attend the Sunday morning service together.

Five outcaste, high school boys and a teacher have been coming to the house for instruction in Christianity. Their attendance has been regular and they say that they wish to become Christians. Pray for them and for us as we help them.

Our services are fairly well attended; but we desire that the Indians themselves see their responsibility to God for their fellow men and His purpose for the church.
Bhusaval is an important railway junction where many persons of various denominations live. There is also a large Anglo-Indian population. We are working among these people as well as among the Indians.

Satan has given us difficulties but the Lord has enabled us to press on to victory. Many times people don’t wish to listen to the Gospel; so we let them talk first. Where opportunities arise, we present the Gospel in a conversational manner; and we have had souls won in just that way.

In the past, there was friction between members of this church; but the power of God has wiped this all away; and now we all meet in love and fellowship. When some members were lax about church attendance, the Lord permitted tests of sickness and unemployment which caused them to turn to their pastor for prayer. At these times, the Spirit used the Word of the Lord to win these people, so that today, they are faithful in attendance. Some tried breaking church rules; so the pastor had to counsel them with the Word and bring unity about in this way.

Our Sunday School work was dropping off due to lack of teachers. Mrs. Cutler and we two spent a great deal of time visiting all the Christian homes, holding cottage meetings in Hindi, Marathi, and English, stressing the new birth and the Spirit-filled life. We praise the Lord for His blessings upon us and all He did to revive the Sunday School and Young People’s Society. Now Rev. and Mrs. Hillis have two Sunday Schools going with more attending as the weeks go by.

The weekly Bible study has made the members realize the need for feeding daily upon the Word. We hear glad testimonies of blessing in personal Bible-study.

While reviewing what the Lord has done for us, we feel words are inadequate to express our gratitude and praise and thankfulness to Him. Glory to be His holy name.
Bible School Blessings

By GERALD CARNER

It is now forty years since the Marathi Bible Training School was started in Nargaon by Mr. C. L. Eicher. Counting the students now in school, 335 have studied here. Some began well, but have since fallen by the way. But many recorded names bear witness that God is still taking the weak and the foolish, yea, that which is despised and bringing glory to His name in their transformed lives and worthy service.

The majority of the men come as new converts from villages where they had been outcastes. When one contemplates their background, it is indeed cause for thanksgiving to the Lord that they are out working in many missions in the Marathi-speaking area.

This year, six men were graduated and now all are out in the work serving as village pastors. Having been with them during all their time in the Bible school, we rejoice to see how they have grown in the Lord. We believe that they have gone out with a definite consciousness of the call of the Lord and a sincere desire to serve Him.

At present, we have thirty-six men and women studying with us. They are from five different missions besides our own. This variety of viewpoints has been wholesome. One Sunday, we had a special programme in which the students told of the work of their respective missions. We felt the presence of the Lord; and we were brought to realize in a new way that we are all members of one body with one Lord and one faith and one common task.

We are deeply grateful to God for the considerable help we have had and are now receiving in the teaching programme of the school. Last year, at various intervals, eight missionaries have come to teach some of the Bible courses. Their lives and ministry are a great asset to the school and a continual inspiration and blessing to the students.

Bells ring here all day long, calling students and faculty to their work and classes. We have work hours morning and afternoon when work must be done on the farm and in cleaning the classrooms, chapel and campus. At 8:15 a.m., the men and women meet separately for chapel followed by classes until noon. After lunch and rest hour, study and classes continue until 4:30.

Although we teach various courses, our curriculum is Bibliocentric, of course. There are Bible survey courses followed by intensive study of each book, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse. Doctrine is taught by subject method from the Word. They must learn how to
carry on Sunday School work, adult, Christian education, and evangelistic programmes as well as understand the ministry of the pastor.

The students carry on Sunday School classes in eight neighbouring villages. They also go out in singing bands which the villagers receive attentively. We have attended two Hindu fairs to preach and distribute Gospel portions. Last year, they began meetings in another town, and now there is a preacher stationed there pointing folk to the Saviour.

Many of the students' wives come to us illiterate; and it is a joy to see them open to the truth, to watch their growth in grace, and see them read the Scriptures. We are seeking to prepare young men and women for the service of the Lord. We are conscious of our frailty and limited ability; but we praise God for His faithfulness and provision of strength and the many indications of His working in the students' lives.

Recently Mr. Garrison had special meetings with us when he spoke about the Holy Spirit in the believer. Many testified to blessing received; but we long to see these young people come into the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, to be endued with power for service.

We could have had several more couples and single men this year, had we the room for them. We need more classroom and dormitory space. We should have more teachers to carry on the programme to the best advantage.

Until now, our aim has been to train pastors and evangelists. Some people are of the opinion that we should broaden our influence as Bible schools at home have done. That is, we should also train young people to be lay leaders in the church, while pursuing other occupations. They could come to us to become established in the Christian faith, and while studying together, have sympathetic help to find out God's plan for their lives.

Regardless of what action will be taken in this matter, we do need to equip our school properly to meet the present needs. Will you pray with us for wisdom as to what we should do in the future, and also that the Lord will enable us to enlarge our borders to accommodate more students?
Property, Preaching, and Preparation

By LOUIS L. KING

Immediately after returning from conference last year with the good news that property was to be purchased in Ahmedabad, the search was begun. We sought a suitable house that was for sale; but in each case, cost, location, or condition was definitely unsuitable. Finally, a plot about 200 yards outside the city limits was found. It is in a good location; and soon will be within the city limits. We had to pay $10,000 for approximately one and a third acres.

We have also searched for another bungalow in which to live until the new house is built; for we have had notice to vacate by the end of November. In answer to prayer, our stay has been extended twice already.

Besides taking care of property matters, some time has been given to preaching. I have had many opportunities to preach in churches, conferences, Bible school, and in villages. All together, there have been twenty-one decisions for Christ.

There were two notable occasions when the meetings approached revival proportions. Once, after preaching the morning sermon, as we were singing the closing hymn, a deep sense of the presence of God fell on the congregation. Instead of dismissing the service, the invitation was given. Eight young people immediately came to the altar to be saved. Many Christians were revived and the meeting continued until afternoon. Since then, nightly prayer and Bible-study meetings have been held without interruption.

The second time was one special-service Sunday in October. The pastor had been praying with a heavy heart for a month for these meetings; and the Lord did not disappoint. A number were converted and found glorious forgiveness in Christ.

As regards preparation, Mrs. King and I have been spending six hours a day in language study. Our progress will be recorded following the March, 1949, language examination.
Victor, our boy gardener, stepped up to my desk and stuttered out the Gujerati equivalent of, "P-P-Please f-f-forgive m-me. I-I p-p-pulled up a p-p-plant; b-b-but I b-b-brought it b-b-back". He had stolen the flower and took it to plant in his own garden; but soon afterward, he felt remorseful for having taken it. Together, we replanted it in the school garden; but the next day it lay withered under the tropical sun. Not so the triumph of that confession and restitution planted deep in Victor's heart. This was the fruit of a spontaneous revival which broke out among our boys and girls in January.

One morning, before classes, Camilla came saying, "Come and pray with me. I want to be saved". She was only ten; but she went to classes that day with Christ in her heart. In the evening, she brought a friend to us for prayer. As we were praying in my office, others peeped into the room and came in to join us on our knees. By the time the supper bell rang, eight girls had the joy of the Saviour on their faces. As it had begun, so the revival went on for weeks, mostly in such informal prayer meetings as this, until all our sixty girls were happy in Christ’s redeeming love.

While attending some of the boys’ sores, I was happy to hear the question, "What must I do? I’m not saved". So the revival had come to the boys’ compound! Almost forty of them confessed their sins. Many have been the prayers that God would work mightily in Dholka. Oh, the joy of reaping their fruit!

Last June, the school reopened with 148 students, 125 of whom are boarders. On the first day, Clara told us that she and her brother and sister had held Sunday School classes during the summer and won a few children to the Lord. The revival had given some of the children a vision of the lost.

One evening, a lad came to the bungalow with his Bible under his arm and tears in his eyes. Another, who accompanied him, explained that, "Ravikant was reading his Bible and began to cry. He wants to be saved". The boy confessed his sins and accepted the Lord. That evening, he brought five others to find the same joy in the Saviour.

Just after Easter, we had a Week of Witness. Classes were dismissed at noon; and students, teachers, pastor, evangelist, and missionaries all piled into car and trailer until it looked as though the Old-Woman-in-the-Shoe had changed her address! After prayer, a song, and a shout of "Victory to Jesus", we were off through the heat and the sand to visit some villages which had not been visited for a long time. About
1,300 to 1,400 people heard the Gospel during that week. They listened attentively; but many still sit in darkness.

The rains have not come to Gujerat this year and a state of famine exits. How pitiful to see them prepare the soil, sow the seed, and wait for rain which doesn’t come. We have prepared the “soil” of the children’s hearts. We have planted the “seed” of the Word of God. Many are watering the “seed” with their prayers. The Lord will give the harvest. “Brethren pray for us”.

Hindus Confess God’s Power

By MRS. RUTH BRABAZON

Mehmedabad is one of our oldest Gujerati centres. A stronghold of ancient, superstitious Hinduism, it still clings to out-moded creeds and beliefs. But like the rest of India, Mehmedabad is waking from her slumbers, and is beginning to look forward to newer and better things. Upon arrival, we have found a friendliness among high caste Hindus unknown to former missionaries. Invitations come to us from those in authority demonstrating a desire to let go age-old prejudices.

Miss Blews and I have been here but four months after Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson left for America. For the past term, they have carried on the tremendously important work of the Gujerati Men’s Bible School. Their faithfulness in the work and God’s blessing upon it are plainly evidenced in the lives and work of the graduates.

I had the privilege of teaching a refresher course to some of these young men; and I rejoiced to see the foundation which had been so well laid. As we sat together around the Word, all our hearts were refreshed. Their zeal and enthusiasm are a joy to behold.

During the rainy season, it was impossible to reach all our outstations; but we visited as many as we could. We found a young Brahmin asking for baptism; a young Brahmin teacher is coming regularly for instruction; and in another town, the Lord marvelously healed a young Christian of heart trouble. Three mission doctors held little hope for him apart from a long hospitalization. He called all his relatives into his home; and Hindu neighbours gathered to see him die. His old father, one of our faithful Christians humbly prayed to the Lord before them all. While he was praying, his son began to feel better. Before long, he was sitting up and taking nourishment. The entire healing was so miraculous that the Hindus confessed that our God works wonders. Praise His name.
In three different villages, we have adult literacy classes going, instructing seventy-nine people how to read the Bible. One widow is anxious to prepare herself for service for the Lord.

A young Mehmedabad high school youth came to us seeking the Lord and requesting baptism. He had received a Scripture portion from one of the workers at a religious fair a month before. He had known one of our young Christians in Ahmedabad. His family recently tried to arrange a Hindu wedding for him but he has fixed his heart on going through with God. Please pray for him.

God is adding to the church such as should be saved. Those already within the church need encouragement in their daily battle with Satan. Intensive touring and many short-term Bible schools are greatly needed to strengthen them.
Great Things Whereof We are Glad

By VIRGINIA AND PAUL MORRIS

This has been a year of victory in Viramgam district. There have been months of serious illness in our home, only two inches of rainfall, and much suffering among the poor, village people. However, we workers have been encouraged as we labour together in the reopening of this area which has been without a missionary for years.

At the request of the people, the missionary has served as local pastor. The preparation and delivery of three messages a week gave much help in acquiring Gujarati. There are many Hindu and Muslim friends now regularly attending our services. Sometimes there are as many as twenty-eight non-Christians present. Some of these have purchased Bibles and hymnals, and are earnest inquirers.

The young people comprise a major part of our church. They are well-educated, active, and anxious to be doing something in the church programme. As their leaders, we have enjoyed the days and hours spent in directing this activity into spiritual channels.

We should have an Indian pastor relieve us so we may be free to tour the vast unevangelized area around us. Our jeep has taken us to out-of-the-way places where the Gospel has not gone out for years due to a depleted staff.

In Viramgam, the workers and lay people spent two full days in August preaching and selling Gospel portions in a large fair which annually attracts 15,000 people. We sold so many books the first day, that on the next day, a group of Hindus put up a large stall where they sold Hindu literature. They refused to close the stall until the last Christian worker had left.

We celebrated our Week of Witness by going to twenty-three different villages speaking fifty-three times to audiences which totalled more than 3,600. This special effort gave cause for encouragement and new determination to take the message out still farther. We solicit your prayers as we begin touring this area for the first time it has been done in a number of years.
MISSIONARY DIRECTORY, 1948

Headquarters: AKOLA, BERAR
Chairman: REV. E. F. EICHER

BERAR

Akola
  REV. AND MRS. J. F. DERR
  MISS ANN DROPPA
  REV. AND MRS. C. H. DYKE
  REV. AND MRS. E. F. EICHER
  MISS GLADYS JASPER
  REV. AND MRS. A. B. SHAW

Amraoti
  REV. AND MRS. L. E. HARTMAN
  MISS MARTHENA RANSOM

Anjangaon (Surji)
  REV. J. L. AMSTUTZ
  REV. AND MRS. L. R. CARNER

Chandur (Ry.)
  REV. AND MRS. T. M. AMSTUTZ

Khamgaon
  MISS HILDA DAVIES
  MISS JULIA DERR
  MISS EDITH MOORE
  MISS BEATRICE SHRUM
  MISS BERNICE STEED (until May)

Malkapur
  REV. AND MRS. F. W. SCHELANDER

Murtizapur
  REV. AND MRS. A. I. GARRISON

EAST KHANDESH

Bhusaval
  MISS WINIFRED SANFORD

Jalgaon
  REV. AND MRS. F. W. SCHELANDER

Nargaon
  REV. AND MRS. G. L. CARNER

GUJERAT

Ahmedabad
  MRS. RUTH BRABAZON
  REV. AND MRS. L. L. KING

Dholka (Ahmedabad Dist.)
  MISS LUELLA BURLEY
  REV. AND MRS. P. C. HAAGEN
  MISS MYRA WING

Mehmedabad
  REV. AND MRS. J. S. RINGENBERG

Viramgam
  MISS RUTH BLEWS
  REV. AND MRS. P. L. MORRIS

SPECIAL LOCATIONS

Chikalda (Amraoti Dist.), Berar
  MISS AGNETE HANSEN, (Matron of Children's Home)

Kedgaon (Poona Dist.)
  MISS BERNICE STEED (after June)

ON FURLOUGH

MRS. DONALD CAPPS
MISS MARY PRICE
MRS. RUTH SCHLATTER
REV. R. H. SMITH

RETIRED IN INDIA

MISS HELEN BUSHFIELD

PRINTED IN INDIA AT THE WESLEY PRESS AND PUBLISHING HOUSE, MYSORE CITY