The India Alliance

Marathi Area Edition

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BULLETIN 2—1957
Meet Your Missionaries With

The Area Secretary

A letter from the Chairman’s office, AKOLA (ELMORE and ALICE EICHER) finalizes hope for the much anticipated visit to the Field of the new Area Secretary, Rev. Robert Chrisman. From October 1 to October 25 he will be visiting every station from Jalgaon to Chandur as well as attending a part of our Annual Conference commencing October 21. The projected itinerary will include Poona, for our literature work, Kedgaon and Dhond, for Mukti Mission and its affiliated boys’ school and also Kodaikanal, South India, where the missionaries’ children’s hostel is located.

By the map on the inside cover you will be able to follow Mr. Chrisman’s itinerary and throughout this bulletin spot each of the missionaries he will becoming acquainted with.

Quoting our Chairman’s letter we all say, “Please pray with us that his visit may be all that God wants it to be for the furtherance of His work in our Field.”

“It seemed to us like one of Satan’s fortifications. We wandered all through that town (JALGAON — JONATHAN and ANNA LOU AMSTUTZ), being turned away from each place by a look or a word of scorn.” These words of our esteemed colleague, Miss Ransom, appear in the India Alliance of 19 years ago. Stalwart heroes have lived, labored, prayed, wept and died here, yet today after over half a century of missionary endeavor, there is still not one Christian in all this district outside the suburbs of Jalgaon city, as far as we know.

However in recent years an encouraging friendliness has been shown in the villages. I wish you could see the shoppers in the weekly bazaar cluster about our little book store. They hear the Gospel, and upon appeal to read for themselves scores of them purchase these booklets in a very short time. One of these recently revealed an intense desire to become a Christian. He even testified of Christ’s sacrificial death for sin to his young friends. Do pray for this earnest inquirer and for others who show interest.

The city church has had a sad history of internal strife. However a few months ago some of the greatest trouble
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makers ceased attending. We thank God for the more peaceful atmosphere of late, and for the ministry of the pastor. Let us uphold him in prayer and earnestly seek for a revival which will bring salvation to nominal Christians and the power of the Spirit for effective witnessing. Only then, we believe, will there be the fruit among unbelievers which we have been looking for for so long.

“They that sow in tears, shall reap joy.” Psalm 126:5

“More than the grass is growing in BHUSAVAL” write DARYL and BEA CARTMEL as they report the rejuvenation of the Sunday School by the commencement of a new program of classes for adults, young people and children.

The Marathi Bible Training School at NARGAON (GERALD and SARA CARNER) celebrates its Jubilee with the completion of a ministry of fifty years. More than six hundred young men and women have studied God’s Word there in this time. Her former students are now serving the Lord in all parts of Maharashtra. From a small beginning the school has grown until today we have young people coming regularly for training from seven different churches and missions. The largest class in the history of the school was graduated on April first of this year. It is today, as far as we know, the largest school of its kind in all India. In this new Republic, with Church and Mission facing revolutionary changes, this Bible School looks forward to greater opportunities and responsibilities than ever before.

On July 17th ED and RUTH LEWELLEN (MALKA-PUR) welcomed their third son, Tedd Mark, at the Mission Hospital, Madurai, South India. According to his present weight increase he promises to be in the weight lifting class with his brothers, Tommy and Barth.

HILDA DAVIES and WINIFRED SANFORD write from the KHAMGAON Bible School of definite progress under the Master Builder during three days of special meetings. Some of the students testified to assurance of salvation such as had not been known before. Others prayed for and took by faith
the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is requested that the forty-five students gathered from five different missions will be built into His Church “for glory and for beauty” in the heart of India.

KHAMGAON Girls School under the supervision of ANN DROPPA lists an increase of thirty girls making a total of 120 in boarding. Fifteen of these attend High School in town, having completed the grades in the Mission School. From Christian and Hindu homes in the town come an additional forty-six day scholars.

At the time of writing there are forty cases of influenza in the boarding. They will appreciate consistent prayer against such epidemics. Spiritually, here is a specific opportunity for you to take part in the formation of young lives.

In addition to their district work ROLAND and BETTY PERRETT (KHAMGAON) will be undertaking the building of a missionary residence in Akot. This will fulfill the long anticipated plan to divide the responsibilities of the large Anjangaon district.
Womens Work is receiving a new impetus with the appointment of RUTH SCHLATTER (AKOLA) to that field of service. She plans a lay leaders conference in the fall of this year for the village and city women to give them instruction and to create enthusiasm for Sunday School work, for local prayer groups and for personal witnessing.

GLADYS JASPER (AKOLA) reports a phenomenal high in book sales for the Akola Book Depot in the past year. She hopes in the near future to have a group of young men trained for itinerant book selling by bicycles throughout our field.

Santa Barbara School boys and the Junior Church children in AKOLA have profited much from the weekly classes held by MARTHENA RANSOM. Her lessons have been abundantly and excellently illustrated with flannelgraph material accumulated through many years of experience.

The month of August marked the annual session of the Workers Summer School, supervised by JACK and RUTH DERR (AKOLA). The three weeks were spent in courses in Bible Study, Comparative Religions and Spiritual Counselling. It is moreover a time of drinking in through fellowship and study for men who spend most of their time pouring out in the spiritual isolation of India's villages.

(Heather Lee Derr arrived September 12th).

From April to June of this year seven adult literacy and Bible classes were held in MURTIZAPUR district (GILLETTE and MARY VANDEGRIFT). There was a definite moving of the Spirit in three of these. Therefore fifteen people now are ready for baptism. These will be coming in to a Short Term Bible School in September.

In the village of Potha, God very definitely answered prayer that has been going up for five years. First He sent a Christian family there to witness, then a class was held and now eight people have stepped out for the Lord. Pray for these new Christians and praise the Lord for His faithfulness.
We are very thankful for a new sphere of service opened here in AMRAOTI (LAIRD and MARY ANN STENGELE). Every Friday night Mary Ann and the Pastor’s wife have a class with the Christian nurses and staff of the two government hospitals. They are teaching the Sunday School lessons as the nurses do not get off duty to go to Sunday School. Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of these girls and women. They are well educated and could be greatly used in the Christian community if they will surrender themselves to the Lord.

We can all profit from the exhortation from TILMAN and ESTHER AMSTUTZ (CHANDUR) as they write: Will you not pray for us that, knowing the time is short, we may be wise and above reproach, so that we may daily in our labors be a sweet savour of life unto life. We need to be as dogmatic in our affirmations as those to whom we witness are in their denials. If what we believe to be the Christian Faith is true, we ought to be strongly in earnest in telling about it and not be frightened away by irreligious intellectuals who say that to talk about these things with conviction is an act of impoliteness, or discourtesy, or childlikeness. As there is only one God, so there can be only one Gospel. If God really has done something in Christ on which the world depends and if He has really made it known, then it is our Christian duty to believe when He says “Neither is there salvation in any other.” So help us, God, to boldly yet ever so wisely preach the Gospel.

We praise the Lord that His children stand true in time of testing. Just recently a certain family in ANJANGAON district (HERBERT and BETTY DYKE) was severely beaten for refusing to compromise concerning their testimony. Because they refused to denounce Christ and forsake Him they were refused water from their usual well. When returning from the river they were roughly man handled. Their clay water vessels were broken and their bodies bear signs of beating. While praising God that His children have stood the test, we must continue to pray that by God’s grace they will manifest a loving spirit despite the wrongs committed against them. May the Lord be pleased to find strong material here in India with which to build His Church.

(Ed. note: Nancy and Bruce were delighted to hear of the arrival of their new baby sister, Elaine Margaret, on August 25.)
Among the thirty schools in DHOND county (EARL and GRACE HARTMAN) there are two mission schools; that of the Mukti Mission and ours. (ED. note: The Hartmans have been loaned to the Boys Christian Home Mission.) In the percentage of passes in the final exams last school year Mukti was first and we second. Our school opened June 11 this year with over three hundred day scholars in addition to our own mission boys. Most of these come from Christian, Hindu and Moslem homes in Dhond town, but many walk in from villages as much as six miles away. We have had to refuse many day scholars for lack of room but now our new school building with seven class rooms is nearly finished and we hope to soon be able to take a lot more. We want to start a kindergarten also as there seems to be a real need for it.

Don’t forget to pray for Santa Barbara Boys School—Akola. For the past two years it has been under the supervision of the Church rather than the Mission. Those in charge need to be particularly remembered in prayer as they bear the heavy financial and administrative responsibilities. Aside from the boarding, it takes in many day scholars from unbelieving homes. There is also a hostel for Christian boys attending high school in town. The School’s strategic position because it deals with youth demands a large place in your intercession for the Church.

FRED and EDNA SCHELANDER (POONA—Bible revision) had the joy this spring of welcoming back to India their daughter, Muriel and her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Entz are stationed in Ahmedabad, Gujerat Field, for language study.

“The Problems of Printing and Publishing” might well be the title of a new book if JULIA DERR (POONA) were to describe her daily endeavors in that field. She gives freely of her time and energy in the constant struggle to keep the wheels of translation and publishing rolling smoothly.

October 25th will be a red letter day for the KODAIKANAL School children and their parents. The children will be arriving home for the Christmas vacation accompanied
on their 1100 mile trip by Al and BERNICE SHAW. Al has been teaching 7th grade this year and Bernice has been giving piano lessons as well as being matron in our hostel.

MRS. MARY GARRISON, Bernice’s mother, who has been with her daughter and son-in-law, needs prayer for physical needs.

When Mr. Chrisman visits the children’s hostel in LANDOUR, North India he will meet still another of our family, AGNETA HANSEN, who has been loaned to the Gujerat Field to serve as matron in the hostel. Her loving devotion in making a home for missionaries’ children in various hostels throughout the years has been much appreciated.

Perhaps many of you have had the opportunity of meeting LAUREN and LACY LEE CARNER who are on furlough now, and also JANET WOEHRER, DONALD and FAITH CAPPS, FATHER CUTLER, BERT and ARTIMESE EICHER and FERNE EGERRIE whom we will be welcoming back to the Field in the fall.
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