The India Alliance

SPRING 1957
Happy the man who for his God
    Has left the world and all its ways,
To tread the path the saints have trod,
    And spend his life in prayer and praise!

Unhappy, who himself to please
    Forsakes the path where duty lies,
Either in love of selfish ease,
    Or in contempt of human ties.

In vain have they the world resigned
    Who only seek an earthly rest;
Nor to the soul that spurns mankind
    Can ever solitude be blest.

— E. Caswall
Editorial-

MARANATHA

The headlines of our newspapers scream louder and louder the one word -- MARANATHA. Secular authors employ the long neglected Biblical term -- APOCALYPSE. Fulfillments of the PROPHETIC WORD are written large on every hand. Certainly the next great event for history's page will affect one and all. It will follow closely the shout of the archangel and the last solemn trumpet call, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh!"

This present writer is of the opinion that God's scourge has attained to its divinely-appointed limits in the West. The very reverse we believe to be true in the East. As the enemy comes in like a flood in mission lands, we need the more earnestly to pray that the Lord lift a standard against him and give personal victory to His own. The night of this world may yet grow darker. The watches of those He has set on His towers may become more distressing. But be assured of this one thing -- He will not tarry. "For there is still but a short time, and then The Coming One will come, and will not delay." (Heb. 10:35, 37 Wey.) And even in the short interval between, He will come to the citadel of your heart in a spiritual fellowship that will fortify you for the pressures He will yet permit to come upon us. Yet He will still grow dearer in a closer, sweeter fellowship -- the fellowship of His sufferings.

Thus whether it be for the morning we wait or for the solace He gives thru the tedious hours of the night, it is our dear Lord for whom we wait, our Friend, our Hope, our Joy, our Song. I would not have you to be ignorant as others who have no hope and are thus filled with fear and foreboding. We who comprise the Body of Christ are not marching on to a world cataclysm. We are going forth to meet our Bridegroom. The signs of the times portend no evil for US, but rather the joyous fact that our waiting is all but over. Hidden just beyond the bend He comes to take His bride. Look carefully; is your wedding garment ready?

ABOVE

I see the last dark, bloody sunset,
I see the dread Avenger's form;
I hear of Armageddon's onset --
But I shall be above the storm.
There comes a moaning and a sighing,
There comes the death — clod’s heavy fall,
A thousand agonies of dying —
But I shall be above them all.

— Author Unknown

HE IS FAITHFUL

The promise of His coming has never been withdrawn. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (II Pet. 3:9) Jesus Himself avers: “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Mark 13:31) He admonishes us with these words: “When ye pray, say, . . . Thy Kingdom come.” (Matt. 6:10)

A PURITAN PRAYER

“Hasten, O my Saviour, the time of Thy return! Delay not lest the living give up their hopes; delay not, lest earth should grow like hell and Thy Church be crumbled to dust. Oh, hasten that great resurrection day when the graves that received but rottenness and retain but dust, shall return Thee glorious stars and suns. Thy desolate Bride saith, Come. The whole creation saith, “Come, even so come, Lord Jesus’”. - (- Baxter) In this prayer is summed up all that a Christian heart can desire: - the banishment of sin and its resultant sorrow from the world; deliverance from the bondage of corruption and from the power of Satan; establishment of the kingdom of righteousness; the restoration of all things; the bestowal of rewards; and an intimate face to face fellowship with Christ our Bridegroom. There is only one solution to all the ills of the world and to our many unresolved problems: “Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.”

TWINS

The India Alliance has been the Official Organ of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in India since July, 1902. This date marks the beginning of a “New Series” of magazines which leads us to conjecture that the true origin of the publication antedates even the oldest volumes now in our hands. Whatever changes this “New Series” may have involved after the three year interval of silence imposed by the Great Famine, the periodical continued to report Alliance Mission work - - the joys and sorrows of sowing and reaping, the problems and needs of your representative on the front lines in India.
Again we come to another “New Series”. Beginning with this first issue of 1957, the India Alliance will be published in two editions, a Marathi one presenting the general news of the Marathi area, and this Gujarat Edition, setting forth our efforts and accomplishments, our hopes and soul yearnings for Gujarat. We trust you will receive even more pleasure and profit from acquaintance with these twin publications than you have ever experienced from their single antecedent. It is our hope that the REPORTS of this issue will not discourage you (as all REPORTS have a way of doing) but that you will eagerly await the Testimony Issue that will be published in the summer, and the Prayer Manual that will follow in the fall.
Heard at Conference

The Church of Jesus Christ in India has never had greater opportunities than today. Amid the rumblings of opposition there are more hearts hungering for the Gospel than ever before.

India is waiting to see some Church somewhere come alive for God. It could be our Church.

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

Stephen not only gave a wonderful sermon, he also gave his life. What he could not accomplish thru his life, he did achieve by his death. None of us are ready to live for Christ until we are prepared to die for Him.

It is not necessary to be able to explain every situation in which we find ourselves. God is God in spite of circumstances.

Don't worry about missionary methods. Don't worry about the power of the Seed.

All Christians fall into two categories: HAVE and HAVE-NOTS.

Everything Christ has He is willing to give us. We can be as rich as He is.

God wants to give us children but you can't bypass the travail.

God wants us to abandon ourselves so completely to His will that He will be able to work out His will thru us.

God is not looking for uniformity of expression in our Societies. Any relationship is a false one unless we are united thru the True Vine.

It is not what I do or what I am that's important, but rather what is my relationship.

Jesus assures us that we cannot bear fruit apart from Him.

The pressures that bear upon us are preparing us for a more spiritual ministry.

The power available to Paul is available to us, and on the same conditions.

You can only draw on someone else's account when you have a joint account.

We are not useless appendages, but part and parcel of Christ's body.

We make or break our lives according to how we accept the wooings of Christ.

Thirty-nine years ago there were 79,000 Marxists. Today there are 812,000,000.

The great battle of the day is not one of armaments, but one of ideas.
Chairman's Survey

TO THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

— E. F. Eicher —

"I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:1-6, 12, 13, 30-32)

For the second year we meet as two Regional Conferences of the India field of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, with this difference, that in keeping with the decision of the Foreign Department of our Society the one field in India will be two fields as of January 1, 1957.

The action of the August 14-16 Foreign Department meeting is, "That the date of separation of the India fields begins January 1, 1957. That each field establish its own form of Constitution and administration in accordance with The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and the Chairman's Manual and subject to Foreign Department ratification. That each field assume its proportion of financial assets and liabilities which obtain at the present."

Our hearts' desire is that the separation effected may be in a spirit of love and understanding in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us also remember that though we become two fields with separate administrations, we are all one in the service of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, which again is a part of the redeemed Church, the Bride of the Lamb.
For a little while let us briefly review the history of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in India.

In 1892 there was one Alliance station in India and ten national Christians. The next year there were seven stations in Berar with 47 missionaries and one church at Akola. In 1894 there were 11 stations in the Marathi language area and three in Gujarat, with a total staff of 58 missionaries on the field and eight national workers. There were two schools, and in that year there were 91 baptisms. In 1897 we had 19 stations with 60 missionaries and 40 national workers. 90 baptisms took place that year, and the church membership totalled 160. In 1898 there were 63 missionaries and 53 national workers -- 25 in Berar, 8 in Khandesh and 20 in Gujarat. Eight churches were organized that year, making a total of 9 churches. In 1899 the largest Christian community, numbering 131, was in Matar and Kaira. That year the Akola church was built with gifts from nationals, having a membership of 55 at the time.

The outstanding record for 1901 was the four orphanages; Kaira with 385 girls, Khamgaon with 186 girls, Dholka with 390 boys and Akola with 146 boys.

The year 1904 saw the largest number of missionaries on the India field in the history of the Mission -- 89, occupying 20 stations, assisted by 80 national workers. There were 20 baptisms that year in Berar and Khandesh and 225 in Gujarat, but in 1906 with 78 missionaries and 100 national workers there were only 34 baptisms.

Let us take jumps of ten years: In 1916 there were 50 missionaries, 132 national workers including teachers, no ordained pastors, 9 churches and 1505 baptized believers. In 1926 there were 61 missionaries, 132 national workers including 5 ordained pastors, and the 2318 baptized believers gave Rs 6,240 in offerings for the year.

In 1931 The Christian and Missionary Alliance of India came into being. At that time there were 25 organized churches with a total membership of 1584 giving Rs 8,047 in tithes and offerings.

In 1936 we had 44 missionaries on the field and 67 national workers, of whom 8 were wholly supported by the Church, 17 partially supported by the Church and 42 were wholly supported by the Mission. Church membership rose to 1,984, and there were 29 organized churches, of which 13 were in the
Marathi Synod and 16 in the Gujarat Synod. The giving amounted to Rs 8,851-.

In 1946 we had the lowest number of missionaries on the field in the history of the Mission. Church membership jumped to 3,012, while church giving increased to Rs 19,274, of which Rs 10,573 was given by the churches in Gujarat and Rs 8,701 was given by churches in the Marathi Synod. There were 171 baptisms in the Marathi area and 52 baptisms in Gujarat.

Let us now review the past year. First of all we praise God for His faithfulness in meeting every need of the Church, Mission and missionaries. In looking through some records I came across the following memorandum: “Allowances received by Alliance missionaries in 1934-35: April Rs 70-, May Rs 65-, June Rs 65-, July Rs 90-, Aug. Rs 70-, Sept. Rs 60-, Oct. Rs 65-, Nov. Rs 50-, Dec. Rs 80-, Jan. Rs 70-, Feb. 90-, Mar. Rs 99-. Total for the year, Rs 874-. One advantage that year---no income tax troubles! Let us rise in thanksgiving to God for His abundant goodness to us in giving us full allowances through the past year and in meeting every other financial need of the Mission. We also express our gratitude to the Home Board and the home constituency for their generosity in increasing personal allowances and the field budget to compensate for the loss in exchange depreciation over the past year and for their thoughtfulness in again providing facilities for hot season travel.

I am sure no one of us would wish for the days of financial stringency experienced by some present in 1934-35, but as then each had to exercise faith for daily food, so let us remember today that our dependence is wholly upon God for each day’s need as it arises. May we never become complacent and take for granted that which we receive each day in answer to our daily prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

THE CHURCH

Nearly a year has passed since the Bangkok Conference, and it is with joy that we acknowledge the working of God in our midst in the new vision He has given to the Church and Church leaders for a witnessing and self-supporting church. The Gujarati Synod has carried the full expense of pastors’ support and operational expenses of the churches. In addition through the past year one of the pastors supported by the Gujarati Synod has contributed his time in carrying a schedule of teaching at the Bible School in Mehmedabad.

There has been a marked increase in the giving of the
churches in the Marathi Synod. Since Bangkok one church has doubled its contributions to the Central Pastors' Fund. Other churches who were not supporting their pastors have increased their giving to equal the pastor's salary. The system of giving inaugurated by the Synod has been for each church to contribute 90% of each month's envelope offering to a central fund from which pastors and all national workers are paid. The plate offerings and 10% of the envelope offering are retained for the current expenses of the local church. Every church but one has increased its contributions to the central fund since this system was started. Under the leadership of its pastor the Akola church has as its immediate goal Rs 1,000 per month in tithes and offerings. In addition to this a program of weekly witnessing and tract distribution in Akola city and the towns and villages within a five mile radius of Akola has been undertaken as a lay responsibility. Pray for the church that the burden of the lost multitude of souls may become a reality to each member in understanding his responsibility before God as a witness.

I would like to quote a few passages from a report by Miss Anna Nixon on the Landour Conference, "The Witness of an Advancing Church" published in the EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP QUARTERLY: "There seemed to be a growing conviction that though there are yet many open doors and a genuine reception for missionary personnel, yet the burden of evangelism should now rest upon the Church, that it may take root and grow." Mr. C T. Venugopal, Director of Finance, Railroad Board, New Delhi, said: "Lay people are not just fodder for the work of the church or the mission. They should be the spearhead through which, in a changing India, the dynamic power of Christ should flow forth." Though lay workers need to be trained for this, the outstanding need is for a genuinely deep revival in the Church. Dr. Haqq said, "If somehow the Church could be inspired with a sense of destiny! Strategy is not enough. We need a revival geared to evangelism. Revival and evangelism are not the fruits of human effort; they must be the spontaneous outgrowth of a Church grafted into the living vine of Jesus Christ." Jesus says, "Apart from me ye can do nothing."

Let us all devote ourselves to a life of prayer for revival in our midst, for only a revived church will be a witnessing church. Then also self-support will pose no problem.

Recently a small group of believers were baptized in a neighboring district. As inquirers they were taught by the workers to honor God with tithes and offerings and to wit-
ness. At the time of baptism the leader said he owned a field of 40 acres and he desired to give a tenth of this land to the Lord. Since then he has also purchased some musical instruments and has organized the group into a “bhajan” band to witness in neighboring villages.

There were 178 baptisms in all during the year in spite of all the pressure and opposition from without — 51 in the Gujarati Synod and 127 in the Marathi Synod. There are 1454 church members in Gujarat and 1846 members in the Marathi Synod. The giving of the churches in Gujarat amounted to Rs 12,519 -, and the Marathi churches gave Rs 20,561 -, making a total of Rs 33,081 -. I believe this is the largest amount yet given by the Church in any one year. Seven of the 20 churches in Gujarat reported special meetings during the year, but only 7 of the 23 churches in the Marathi area reported such meetings.

We have much to praise God for in what He has done in and through His Church this past year, but there is no room for complacency. This is just a beginning. The churches can easily double their giving this year under the blessing of God, and they can increase their time in witness manifold. May we as missionaries have grace, understanding and wisdom from above as we work with the Church and encourage its leaders in their new-found vision.

In April Rev. Raghuel P. Chavan had the privilege of representing the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India at the Annual Council of the Alliance in Omaha, Nebraska, U. S. A. I believe he was the first national church delegate to represent a church body outside of the U. S. A. at an Annual Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Our brother had a busy and blessed time of ministry in the brief two months he was away from India. He spoke more than 100 times — giving his testimony in Eastern, Central and Western U. S. A., besides ministering in Japan, Hong Kong, Philippine Islands and Viet Nam. May God grant our brother a double portion of His Spirit as he continues to serve the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India as Moderator of the General Assembly and President of the Marathi Synod. Through the past year Brother Chavan has had many calls to other church groups to share with them the blessing and vision he received at Bangkok for a self-supporting and witness Church in India.

SCHOOLS

1955 has been a year of blessing in our Bible Schools, with a record enrollment of 65 men and women at Nargaon, 39
women at Khamgaon, 17 students at Mehmedabad and two students in Union Biblical Seminary, Yeotmal—a total of 123 young people engaged in serious study of the Word of God. Please pray daily for this very vital work of grounding men and women in the Word for leadership in the Church of tomorrow.

There were five Short Term Bible Schools held during the past year, with 120 enrolled. Two Workers’ Wives Retreats were held, with an enrollment of 40. There were 16 Adult Literacy schools held, with an enrollment of 120. Our four town schools served 455 scholars. The three Boarding Schools had a total enrollment of 311 boarders and 153 day scholars, and 120 Sunday Schools had 3,013 students enrolled.

THE MISSIONARY FAMILY

Now for a brief review of our Missionary Family. We welcome three new recruits to the field in the arrival of Robin Mark Perret on January 19, 1956, Mary Margaret Garrison on February 2, 1956 and John Frederick Derr VIII on April 8 at 8 minutes to 8:00, 1956. We rejoice with those who have had this added joy brought into their homes.

Miss Helen Bushfield was called to higher service on January 30, 1956. She was 94 years of age. We remember our sister especially for her devoted and fruitful ministry of prayer.

Since last Conference our former Chairman, Rev, R. H. Smith, went on a well-earned furlough. To the surprise and joy of his many friends (who wondered why he was so anxious to go to America) he entered the ranks of matrimony on February 16. We rejoice with him in his family of sons, daughters and grandchildren, and we welcome Mrs. Smith as an addition to the missionary family in India. We have hopes that Mr. and Mrs. Smith will be returning to India under special appointment to serve as Executive Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India.

The following also went on furlough: Misses Woehrer and Gerrie on April 9, Mr. and Mrs. Evans and family on April 12, Mr. and Mrs. Capps and Mr. Cutler on May 8, and the A. C. Eicher family and Laura Jane Carner on May 23. We wish them all a restful and blessed furlough and trust there will be no hindrance to their return to the field.

We are glad to report that Mrs. Jonathan Amstutz has made splendid progress in her language study during the year and will take her second examination in October.
We are happy to welcome back from furlough Mr. and Mrs. Kose and family on September 6, Misses Derr and Hansen and Mrs. Schlatter on September 11 and Mr. and Mrs. Dyke and family on September 20. We trust that before the close of Conference we will welcome Mr. and Mrs. Perret and family.

We thank God for His protecting hand over all the missionary family through the past year. Some have been severely tested physically. We would request you to continue to pray for Mrs. Daryl Cartmel that she may be fully restored to strength speedily and for Mrs. John Garrison who has been suffering with serious eye trouble. We are happy to hear that her condition is improving. May God grant us, each one, His daily life and strength for the need of the day.

HALFWAY

I would like to recommend that the members of the Conference read carefully an article by Rev. Cliff Robinson in the second quarter of the EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP QUARTERLY. It is entitled “Halfway.” How often in our ministries have we said, “If they would only believe all the way!” So many inquirers are convinced of the claims of Jesus Christ yet do not yield their lives to Him. Are the results of our ministries stopping at the halfway mark? Let me quote from Mr. Robinson’s article:

“The Billy Graham Meetings pointed up the need in India for trained counsellors. Many were shocked to find that though they had been members of the church all their lives they had never before been called on to lead a person to Christ. And they didn’t know how. The Counsellor Classes taught us that even far too many preachers had little practical knowledge of how to lead a man step by step from darkness to light. One preacher, in the Counselling rooms, pulled me down to whisper in my ear: ‘This is different from anything I’ve ever done before. Preaching is easy to this’. One wonders what he had been doing all the time. Another preacher, a missionary with four post-graduate degrees said, ‘Never have I been confronted with a problem such as this—personally leading a person to Christ. I was taught theology and church management and many other courses in seminary, but never a course on how to help a person find Christ.’ It seems to me now that until we can do this we are only halfway trained!

“Ah, but who travels the ‘Halfway’ road? Many of us. We preach — but only halfway. We pray — just halfway. We
evangelize — halfway.” May God keep us as a Mission and as a Church from being satisfied with halfway results!

In India instead of having an indigenous church from its inception 60 years ago, we followed more or less a halfway road of a mission-sponsored, mission-controlled and mission-supported evangelistic program and church. We thank God for the results achieved over the past years and for those who have labored in the face of severe hardship and trial — many having given their lives in their service for God in India. May the Lord enable us now in the short time available under the guidance and inspiration of His Holy Spirit to bring into maturity His Church in India.

As missionaries our contribution to this must be rendered with hearts full of love and understanding for the Church as it goes forward in its new program. As individual missionaries we may have busy and fruitful lives of service and witness, but have we been successful in leading souls to Jesus Christ? Causing a hunger for the Gospel and convincing men and women of the claims of Christ is not sufficient if we cannot bring them to a place of decision. The greatest heritage we could leave to the Church in India would be a host of Spirit-filled witnesses skilled in the use of the Word of God with the ability to apply it to the personal needs of each lost soul so that he may be led from death into life.

PERORATION

While the administrative responsibilities and functions of the Church and Mission are essentially distinct and even though the two language areas of the India field may become two fields administratively, may we ever remember as individuals and as a group “there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

I have had more trouble with myself than with any other person I know. — Dwight L. Moody

Let us never forget that what we are is more important than what we do. — Hudson Taylor
This missionary body has experienced the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD throughout another conference year. Twelve months ago our hearts were challenged and we were enthused with the overflow from the SEA Conference. Upon returning to our stations we found the echoes of Bangkok growing more and more remote. We again faced the very practical aspects of missionary service, the planting and the watering which results in God building His church. In this ministry also God has proved Himself faithful to us as a group and as individual missionaries.

MISSIONARIES

During the year the Government of India refused visas for a new missionary family for Gujarat. An application for a visa for another new family, the husband a Canadian and the wife an American R. N., is now pending before government. It is hoped that they will be permitted to join our ranks by the end of this calendar year. (They will probably be in India by the time you read this report, for their visas have been granted. — Ed.)

The usual and some unusual physical ailments have been the portion of some of our families. Again, we rejoice in the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD in these situations.

NATIONAL CO-WORKERS

At present five evangelists and three Bible Women are supported by and serving under the mission. During the year another of our young evangelists was selected by the Synod as a pastor under that body. His full support has been assumed by the Synod.

One evangelist and one Bible Woman were retired on May 1st. The former had begun his ministry in 1906 and thus completed 50 years of service. The latter began her service in 1908 giving her a record of 48 years of service. The mission was compelled to release two other evangelists during the year.

It is of interest to follow the lives and ministries of our
retired National Workers. In the case of one who has settled in Ahmedabad, retirial by the mission has not meant the ces-
sation of his witnessing ministry. Ratnaji continues to send
regular reports to the office in which he submits encouraging
figures and incidents revealing the blessing of the Lord on
his witnessing.

Some of our missionaries had the privilege of presiding
and being present at the ground breaking and some months
later at the dedication ceremony for a retired worker’s new
home. In this land where there in no Suppes Memorial Home,
we rejoice in God’s provision for HIS servant.

The following telegram was received from Radhanpur on
August 4th: “Houses, compound under water, passed sleepless
night, etc. Roof leaking. In danger. Pray for us. Lalji and
Shaphan” Our brethren did have a harrowing experience and
they too join in offering thanksgiving for the FAITHFUL-
NESS OF GOD.

The wife of one of our evangelists is in the Nadiad Hospital
suffering with tuberculosis.

BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

At the present two classes for men and one for women are
being taught at the Bible School. The Bible School staff has
been greatly strengthened by the full-time services of our
Yeotmal graduate, Rev. B. B. Christia. Three missionaries
have a share in offering instruction. Implementation of a
work program for the students has not been easy for the prin-
cipal or for the students. Precedents are difficult to break in
this land. Nevertheless, students are doing the farming, the
gardening work, the watchman’s duties, Jivan Prakash min-
istry, and many odd jobs. Their English essays, about 100
words in length, show that they are very proud to be work-
ing for their education. The Lord has been doing some prun-
ing of numbers and of hearts and at present there is a good
spirit among the eleven students enrolled.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dholka Boarding continues to make its invaluable contribu-
tion to the church. This year the school is serving two
hundred children. In Bible School, Ahmedabad Children’s
classes, and in the villages alumni of Dholka are easily dis-
tinguished from others. This year the national leaders at the
school have proved themselves capable of assuming more of
the responsibilities of management.
The school at Dhandhuka continues under the supervision of the Dholka School principal with responsibility for immediate supervision resting with the Dhandhuka missionary. One cannot see much fruit from the years of operation of this school, but it has no doubt served to foster good will for the gospel messengers in that area. If for no other reason that school should be maintained. It does afford a field for child evangelism as well.

EVANGELISM, TEACHING, AND ADULT EDUCATION

The Mission has received and is distributing 240,000 leaflets produced by The Rev. John Davey of the I. P. Mission. 140,000 tracts, THE WOUNDS OF CHRIST, are being distributed from our various centers. 140,000 copies of THE NEEDLESS SACRIFICE, have just arrived for distribution. These latter two tracts were made available by the Bible Meditation League.

A very fruitful DVBS, perhaps the first ever in our Gujarat work, was conducted in Simpson Memorial Church, Ahmedabad, under the direction of our single missionary ladies. An outgrowth of this is a weekly inter-mission Teachers' Training Class that is being conducted by one of our ladies in Ahmedabad. Regular ladies' and children's classes have been a feature of the missionary program in Ahmedabad throughout the year.

One of our missionaries has journeyed to Ahmedabad weekly to conduct a much appreciated Bible Class for Christians of various churches. The group assembles at the Simpson Memorial Church for these studies.

Two retreats for workers were held at Dhandhuka. One was for instruction in Adult Education methods while the second was spent in Bible Study, devotions, and practical instruction designed to assist in the ministry of evangelism. The Adult Education Institute has born fruit and illiterates have been or are being taught in Ahmedabad, Dhandhuka, Radhanpur, and Palanpur. There remain limitless opportunities in this field.

Untiring efforts have been made in Dhandhuka District and North Gujarat to take the gospel to multitudes still waiting.

One hears over and over again that the old methods of village evangelism are a thing of the past. These remarks are made by government officials, national Christians and evangelical missionaries. Some of our missionaries have had their
services in non-Christian areas closed down. Others of our group have been chased from public fairs. It does appear that the time has come for a reconnaissance in the sphere of evangelism. Our goal can never be changed. It is to establish and develop the church. The first phase of this ministry is evangelism—soul-winning. While each of us can never be other than a witness, we need to determine the spheres in which we can carry on an active evangelistic program and the methods we can best use in the present day: An encouragement along this line has been the team work between laymen from Ahmedabad and the missionaries in Dhândhuka.

CHURCH

Any reference to the church in this report in no way implies that the ministry accomplished has been the work of the mission. It has been a work of the Holy Spirit accomplished largely through our national brethren. We rejoice with them as we make some observations.

For the first time in several years there is no church litigation before the non-Christian courts. The Synod again sponsored conferences for boys and girls. Many were saved at these meetings.

The Vansar Church had remained without a roof for more than eight years. The new roof has now been completed and a special dedication service is planned. The foundation is laid and funds are in hand for the beginning of a church building at Navagam.

There have been reports of more persons beginning to tithe. The church continues to meet all its financial obligations.

When the Synod appointed another young man as pastor this year, it raised to four, the number of young men who have become pastors in the last five years. Prior to that for more than 15 years, no young man had been ordained as a pastor.

We do not report large defections from the Christian community such as took place near Kapadvanj where more than 100 Christians took Shuddhi oaths. Yet one family and one young man of our churches have identified themselves with the majority community. Just two days ago the following communication came from the young man: "Dear Sahib, I have become a Hindu, but just recently God spoke to me in a dream and told me to come back to Him. Please pray for me that I might live a true Christian life and please write at once and tell me if I can have forgiveness for my sins." It
behoves us to remember that our ministry is not just to wit-
ness but to teach and "to present every man perfect in Christ
Jesus." (This young man returned to the Lord during Youth
Camp this past winter, and has made public confession of
his sin to the Government Officials involved as well as the
Church. — Ed.)

JIVAN PRAKASH AND LITERATURE

Our newly assigned Literature Director reports that 5000
copies of Dr. Oswald J. Smith's booklet, "ONLY ONE WAY",
is now ready in Gujarati. She also has made efforts during
the year to promote the sale of many books that have
remained unsold in mission cupboards for years. All members
of conference need to give full cooperation in this effort.

Jivan Prakash continues to be an effective evangelistic
ministry. Up to September 30th, 16,381 had enrolled in the
two courses and 5,862 had completed the two courses. Those
who complete both courses are now offered a Rs. 1-8-0 New
Testament free. The enrollee has to pay annas eight postage
charge. Many are taking advantage of this opportunity.

One believes that for an Annual Report to be complete it
should take note of conditions that confront the mission at
the present time and it should offer suggestions that might
be considered for the future. For that reason the following
is submitted:

There appears to be some misunderstanding on the part
of some as to how the mission can be vitally interested in
the Church when it, the mission, insists on being a separate
organization. Some say, "How can there be unity?" Any unity
that exists only on an organizational level or that is founded
only on a financial basis can never survive in the spiritual
realm. The unity of church and mission, of national brother
and missionary, is in Christ. That unity is indestructible.
To remove the aforementioned misunderstanding from the
minds of our national brethren we need not launch into long
explanations. It will best be accomplished by prayer, by preach-
ing, and by a life lived for Christ... all in the power of the
Holy Spirit. And friends, this is one place where we dare not
fail God and the Church!

One submits that it would not be unwise for Conference
to consider the advisability of inviting a limited number of
national fraternal delegates to the annual Conference. Cer-
tainly Conference will want to consider having fraternal dele-
gates from our C & M A. Marathi Conference.
Since the Foreign Dept. has authorized sale of the Viramgan property and since missionary quarters are so badly needed in Radhanpur to carry out the program envisaged for the North Country, it would seem advisable to affect a sale of our Viramgam Bungalow and compound. Proceeds from such a sale have already been approved for a Radhanpur missionary residence.

In the light of the request for our mission to publish 12 ELF1 selected books in Gujarati in the next three years, it would seem advisable for our mission to set aside a missionary for this ministry and engage a national on a full-time basis. An accelerated literature program that will include a selling program as well as translation and publication should be our goal.

The Foreign Department in 1952 considered spheres of service in which missionaries could fruitfully serve where churches are well-established. These ministries include Bible Conferences, Sunday School work, Youth Groups, Children’s work, etc. For sometime one has thought that a missionary given to the Synod for conducting Bible Teaching in the churches in a program arranged by the Synod could have a very fruitful ministry. Similarly, a single lady given to the Synod for Children’s and Sunday School work in the churches could meet a tremendous need and have a vast field of service. Such arrangements with the national church should tend to remove some misunderstanding as to our sincere desire to help in the development of the church.

(Conference took action upon the above suggestions. —Ed.)

There remain very few pioneer geographical areas for us to conquer. There are not many more villages where some gospel messenger has not trod. YET... there remain countless pioneer spheres of service to challenge us... spheres in which we are needed and in which under God we can have very fruitful ministries.

These are wonderful days to be in India. Opportunities for service are countless. The door IS open and no MAN can shut it. There are dangers... the danger of forming unholy alliances that will undermine our spiritual capacity and strength. There is the ever present danger of introspection and subsequent discouragement. We dare not walk this road to sure defeat. INSTEAD as we begin a new conference year, let us look unto HIM Who is the author and finisher of our faith. “Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” May He find each of us faithful --to Him, to the Church, to the un-churched, and to one another.
AHMEDABAD
— Ruth Ellen Blews —

"The Lord is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my Strength, in whom I will trust; my Buckler, and the Horn of my Salvation and my High Tower." Ps. 18:2

The first half of last year was a truly difficult one at No. 20. We had several nasty problems. We were conscious that the Enemy of Souls was doing his utmost to defeat our ministries. The situation has changed and at the present time we are offering to God our heartfelt praise for the blessing of peace on the Mission compound!

Our labors in Ahmedabad may be divided under the following headings: Children's and Young People's Work (directed by Miss Dyke), Women's work, Adult Literacy and Literature.

Miss Dyke, Esudas and Sumitrabai have had ten children's classes going each week in various sections of the city. In these are approximately 300 children and young people who weekly receive the Gospel. Four of these have been among Christians and the remaining six among the non-Christian communities. She has begun each new class with the Wordless Book followed by a special series of Salvation lessons.

A week or so ago Miss Dyke gave an invitation for any who wished to receive Jesus into their hearts to remain after class. One little girl did remain. When asked if she was of a Christian family she explained: "No, I am a Hindu. Each evening I have been slipping over to a Christian neighbor's home where they have devotions." When it came time for prayer, she poured out her little heart in confession and repentance. Afterwards she said: "I have now left the pathway of sin and am on Jesus' way." The influence of a truly Christian family on their non-Christian neighbors is truly phenomenal.

The Girls' group of the Young People's Societies in both Simpson and Bethel Churches have been more or less of a drag during the year as the girls have shown much of the same indifference and party spirit their elders evince. Recently, however, interest has increased as they have been challenged through a contest in which they earn points for Bible reading, attendance, etc.

The high point in the year as far as Children's Work was concerned was the Daily Vacation Bible School held at
Simpson Church during the hot days of May. Folks say it was the first ever conducted in this area. Many were enthusiastic in their praise. Miss Burley kindly came to assist us in this endeavor. One of the encouraging things about it was the zeal and interest of the group of spiritual teachers whom Sunday School Superintendent- Tarabai Balabhai had rounded up for the work. Each morning at 7 A.M. they were present for the Teachers’ Prayer service. We had about 135 children between the ages of six and sixteen in attendance. Enthusiasm ran as high among the teachers as among the pupils. News of the School spread among the Irish Presbyterian and Methodist Christians. Several came to see and take notes on the school. One asked, “Why did you not give all the churches an opportunity to participate?” The outcome has been the starting of a teacher training class. It is held each Saturday evening in Simpson Memorial Church and is attended by teachers from all the Churches. Some of those attending are now investing their own hard earned money in flannel boards, easels, and colored flannelgraph lessons. Each week they are given new material which can be used in their teaching. Miss Dyke is in charge of this work.

Esudas and Sumitrabai seem to be doing well with their Adult Literacy classes. Six Hindu men have taken the examination on three books and two Christian women have been examined on the primer. They are now studying more advanced work. Esudas has been witnessing to these men. We would request your prayers for their salvation.

We have had three Women’s Classes each week until Hot Season. Since then the number has been increased to five, one of which is in the Camp area. There are about 75 women attending each week. For our course of study we have been using a visualization of Pilgrim’s Progress. Offerings from the groups have been sent to the Bible Society, and to Bethel Church for their electrification project. Besides these week day ministries we are all teaching in the Sunday School at Simpson Church.

We have had the new experience this year of publishing the little book “ONLY ONE WAY”. Translation has been a rather tedious task, but we believe it will be useful in evangelism since it so forcefully sets forth the way of Salvation. Only last week we received word from a man who said that nearly all in his neighborhood had finished Jivan Prakash courses or were nearly finished. He wrote, “We want to know more.” Please pray that we may be able to get some regular classes started there.
The future Bible School ministry gives cause for serious concern and much prayer. The Synod leaders asked if the Mission would transfer its Bible School personnel to Ahmedabad where under the Synod a night school meeting two evenings a week could be organized. The principal of the BTS explained that a central Bible School was a feature of all C. & M. A. Mission work in our various fields. He also explained that extension classes in Ahmedabad would be feasible and should be seriously considered. Subsequently the Synod began work on a Home Study Course to train men for pastoral work. They have found, as did the Mission, that there is a dearth of adequate books for such a course. This has not stopped their interest in a Home Study Course and the result very possibly will be a very weak and insufficient course of study. These developments should cause us grave concern for it is in such fields that Mission and Church need to work very closely together.

Emphasis is placed upon evangelism among the students. Not only are there classes dealing with this ministry, but opportunities are offered for practical work. The Bible Society is supplying the Bible School free of charge with all the gospels that the students can sell. Proceeds from the sales are used to defray expenses of the students. The boys have recently been to two large melos.

As this conference year drew to a close we welcomed Mr. Kose back from furlough and for a ministry among the students. The Lord did a quiet work in the hearts of several of the students, a work that has been evidenced by the new life shown by several. This station with its countless opportunities for service always challenges the missionaries stationed here. We covet your prayers that we and our national co-workers might be found faithful.

(For present ministrations at the Bible School see The Gujarat Area Report.)

Bargain Prices
The very choicest of elephants can be purchased at auction in Mysore, India, for something less than Rs. 5000-0-0. With the rupee worth about 22 cents at present rate of exchange you may choose a pachyderm to your fancy for $500. to $1000. Be sure you have enough money left to buy his daily ration.
Radhanpur - Palanpur
— John Garrison —

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall My word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isa. 55:10,11.)

How we praise God for this promise which we see fulfilled before our eyes following every rainy season. The rain-fall in North Gujarat hit an all-time high this year. Actually, we had more rain than we needed in Radhanpur, where 250 houses fell beneath the heavy and incessant downpour. In our Mission quarters the water-level was inches deep for days. The workers and their families had hardly any food or sleep during that time. Every one of them developed severe colds. Shaphan spent most of his time carrying his little ailing daughter on his shoulder, as she refused to stay up on the cot which was the only dry place in the house.

At the same time they were being flooded out I was marooned at a railway station called Deodar 30 miles from Radhanpur. I was on my way to Radhanpur in answer to a distress call from our workers. Our train reached Deodar when we were informed that there were two breaches ahead, but before our train could turn back, the line behind was also washed away. I found out during those days that deshi tea can sustain one for quite some time! When I finally did get to Radhanpur by a round-about route several weeks later, my heart was thrilled to find the little group rejoicing in the Lord, with their faith strengthened rather than weakened by the stormy trials they had been through.

But our verse promises, “... as the rain, ... so my Word.” If we are fulfilling the condition of being His mouth-pieces, then we can look forward just as joyfully to a spiritual harvest after the months and years of sowing His Word in North Gujarat.

The book room at Radhanpur continues to have a ministry to the few interested ones who enter every day. Our two workers still make the six mile round-trip to the railway station to hold regular Sunday morning meetings with the two or three families of interested Christians there.
After our move from Radhanpur to Palanpur in March, we were able to do very little evangelistic work until our return from the hills. Since then, we have been able to reach about 20 villages where the Gospel had never been proclaimed before. That means that in Banaskantha District, of an estimated 500 villages, and 700,000 souls, approximately 110 villages have been reached, most of them only once.

In Radhanpur district there is keen interest in two villages near Bhabhar, and also Lolada from where there have been previous converts. We continue to trust the Lord to give fruit from the village of Jethelpur. In Palanpur district we would like to follow up interest shown in two large key towns.

Our preaching in religious fairs has been opposed by groups of R. S. S. men. In one melo we were driven out almost immediately upon arrival by young men who threatened to burn the jeep. Unknown to us, an evangelist of the Irish Presbyterian Mission who began selling Christian literature in another part of the melo, also was forced to leave:

A group of Irish Presbyterian workers and laymen from Deesa, Mehsana and Siddpur were invited to go with us to the next large Melo at Balaram, so we had quite a large group. Before setting out we had a precious time of prayer. On the way while we were waiting at a railway crossing, we picked up two men who were going to the melo. One was a policeman. When we got within about half a mile of the melo site I drove my jeep on to a side road intending to let my Indian brethren go the rest of the way on foot. The policeman said we had every right to preach in the melo and insisted that I drive my car to the place where other cars would be parked. I followed his advice because I began to feel more and more that it would be sheer cowardice to stay away.

We no sooner arrived than a group of about 200 men, who had been forewarned of our coming, rushed over to the jeep and mobbed us. The leader struck and dented the hood, while others jumped in the trailer and began tearing out thousands of tracts. Mr. John, one of our number, threw himself bodily onto the box to protect it from more rifling, and had his arm twisted as they tried to pry him loose. They forced nearly 2,000 tracts out of Markbhai's hands, tore them up and threw them to the winds. In the meanwhile, the policeman ran away to bring other policemen. We could do nothing but leave. But were we to leave as though utterly defeated, without having said a word for our Lord? That was the thing that hurt us most. The other time I had at least a chance to witness—to tell those infuriated young men why we had come. As I drove
the car slowly down the road, I decided to stop under a shady tree a quarter of a mile away. In a short time the same crowd which was following us with sticks and knives to see that we really did leave, came up to us. Then for about two minutes I had the opportunity of preaching to them. I told them it was their right if they did not feel we should proclaim Christ in their Hindu melo, to kindly ask us not to do so, but that since they had chosen to follow us out of the melo precincts into the jungle where every man was free to speak his mind, I wanted to talk to them for a few minutes. I was able to tell them of Christ, the Saviour of all the world, who would later be judge of all the world. I invited them to come to my house so that they could really study Christianity. Then some started shouting, "We don't want to hear any more, and we will never stand before your Christ." The policeman returning alone and seeing the unhealthy mood of the crowd told us that in order to save further trouble we had better move on. We went, wondering all the time at the craftiness of Satan and is being turned into glorious victory. Five young men who were in that crowd have come to our bungalow, most of them with hungry, convicted hearts. All took booklets and two have taken Bibles which they are reading. One young man, Amruthbhai, has returned two times and seems not far from the kingdom. After all, did not the Lord promise us that His Word would not return unto Him void?

In the Palanpur church, Markbhai has been doing a commendable job as pastor. He has been regular in visiting the Christian homes and his preaching is usually with conviction. We praise God that Hilda, his wife, is greatly improved in health and we trust will soon be completely healed from her tuberculosis. Estherbhai, the Bible Woman, has been busy teaching two classes of children as well as two adult literacy classes. Due to the fact that about half of the Christian community is Hindi-speaking, the Gujarati services are not as well attended as we would like. However, a large percentage of both the Hindi and Gujarati Christians also understand English. I am therefore looking forward to having a regular Sunday morning worship service in English. Bible studies in Genesis were conducted twice a week for nearly two months after we returned from the hills and seemed to be a real blessing to the few who came.

One of the greatest sources of joy in Palanpur has been the adult literacy classes. Markbhai has been holding two classes. Estherbhai has also had two classes, in one of which three girls have passed their first examination successfully.
Only last week we had the privilege of speaking to their parents regarding the girls' camp to be held in Kaira during Divali. We earnestly pray it will be possible for these girls to go, as their hearts are already open to the Lord.

As you remember the other stations please continue to pray with us that we may yet see that harvest which the Lord has promised.

DHANDHUCA
—E. G. Jacober—

“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” (Jn 20:21)

Dr. R. N. Thompson has summarized mission objectives under the following categories which we use to present our report: (1) Evangelism; (2) Perfecting the Saints; and (3) Establishing the Church.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism means the preaching of the Gospel to every creature. We have undertaken to do this glorious task in Dhandhuka district during the past year. We have laid less emphasis on an extensive program, and more upon intensive preaching. Wherever we went, with only two exceptions, we were graciously received by the high and low. We found an eagerness to hear of Jesus Christ whom we stressed as “The Spotless Incarnation” ready to receive all who put their trust in Him. We spent long hours in the villages persuading men and women to turn and serve the true and living God. The people responded to the message by showing a desire to hear more. In almost every village invitations were given to us to return with lantern slides of the life of Christ and more detailed instruction in the way of eternal life. We did return to some as time afforded and many are on the verge of trusting Christ as their personal Saviour. In the time that remains we will put out the Gospel net before these same villagers. Please join with us in prayer for this vital work.

PERFECTING THE SAINTS

This phase of the work was diligently followed in our ministries among the Christians of the local church of Dhandhuka. A regular Bible teaching ministry has been held among these saints. There has been daily and weekly instruc-
tion of the local Christians. Several times during the year special meetings were held to revive the saints. A profitable time was spent in an Adult Literacy Institute and later in a Workers’ Retreat.

Besides these local activities the resident missionary has been engaged in a Bible teaching ministry which included the Annual Camp Meeting conducted by the Gujarati Church, the Easter Meetings attended by 3,000 Christians in Ahmedabad, and a weekly Bible Class which brings together all groups of Christians of Ahmedabad city. In these classes the entire book of Revelation was expounded and at present a series is under way on the Tabernacle. Large charts are used to help in the teaching. Christians from all over Ahmedabad city and members of other churches are regular in attendance.

Other ministries to the saints have included teaching of the Adult Bible Class at Kellogg church in Landour, direction of the Landour Bible Institute correspondence courses, and a week of meetings at the Marathi Bible School in Nargaon, East Khandesh.

In all of these ministries it has been noted that there is a real hunger for the Word of God. Our desire is to draw nominal Christians into true discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 15:8)

ESTABLISHING THE CHURCH

Ever since the findings of the Bangkok Conference were published, it has been our privilege to instruct the Indian Christians in their responsibility of being indigenous. Stress has been laid upon the duties of the Indian church to be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. We are trying to do our share to help the church follow the New Testament pattern. Much remains to be done.

In conclusion we praise God for His utter faithfulness toward us as we labor to do His will and finish His task in this portion of His vineyard.

“My grace is sufficient for thee.”

His grace is great enough to meet the great things, . . .
The crashing waves that overwhelm the soul,
The roaring winds that leave us stunned and breathless,
The sudden storms beyond our life’s control.
His grace is great enough to meet the small things, . . .
The little pin-prick troubles that annoy,
The school and hostels at Dholka will soon have completed their 54th year of recognized service to the peoples of Gujarat. As from its inception, our school is not so much a place for the making of scholars, as an institution for the maintenance of Christian discipline where by every precept and practice we proclaim the necessity of seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness. Admittedly this ministry becomes more difficult each year as governmental agencies encroach more and more upon our prerogatives and seek to regulate and control each activity of our waking hours. Explicit directives from the Honourable Minister of Education to the effect that non-Christian children should not even be allowed to come voluntarily to religious instruction periods or prayers outside school hours would seek to limit our ministry and throttle our testimony for Christ. This strikes us as being very new, very revolutionary, and very indefensible until we remember that the Apostles were forbidden to preach or teach in the name of Jesus. At that time Peter and John, the spokesmen for the disciples, answered: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19 and 20). It gives us cause for concern as we note how different is the tone of the spokesmen for Mission Schools in Gujarat: "In the new set-up of our country, such problems are bound to arise, but it is for us to meet them with tact and wisdom, knowing as we do, that we are doing the Lord's work and He will give us grace and courage to help extend His Kingdom." As long as "tact and wisdom" are not pseudonyms for compromise, the above is excellent advice to which we should all take heed.

Thru the various departments of our Institution at Dholka we are now ministering to the needs of 200 young people. 187 of these are students in our Primary School. 160 are also residents of the hostels. 20 orphans have all their needs met thru the munificence of Christian friends in India and America. If numbers indicate success, this has been our most successful year since I have been acquainted with the work at Dholka. More money is being received both as fees and also as gifts from Indian sources than has been received in the past. The cooperation of the teaching staff and their interest in the work is much improved over former years. Handwork is being reintroduced into the school as rapidly as we can prove its practicality and raise funds for needed equipment.
and materials. You may now buy your requirements of cotton rope from us and help finance our work. We have also installed bobbin-filling spinning wheels which can be operated by any child who needs to partially support himself. In the future we expect to turn a deaf ear to all appeals for reduced fees but will arrange that each needy child can himself earn the equivalent and more by his own labour. He will be paid the full bazaar rate for all work actually completed. The school is providing the necessary equipment free of charge and making suitable materials immediately available during free hours. This is voluntary work. All needy children now have the choice of earning their own way or of spending their free time in play. The Committee will no longer decide who is to be helped. There is help for all who choose to help themselves. This situation should make it much easier for the national brethren to operate the school. My own experience and experimentation along this line would lead me to believe we have arrived at the juncture where we should give serious thought to this matter. With our grave shortage of missionaries might it not be possible to place full responsibility for the operation of Dholka School and Hostels into Indian hands by the time the next missionary change is necessary?

We wish to publicly take this opportunity to thank the Lord for the excellent health He has given to practically all those connected with our establishment throughout the past year. We are likewise grateful for the faithful helpers the Lord has sent our way. Alliance youth living for even a short time in either of our hostels can never plead ignorance concerning God’s message of love. The weekly Junior Church meetings conducted by Mrs. Haagen continue to be an effective means of bringing young lives to definite decisions for Christ. Again this year God signally honoured our opening week of revival services under the ministry of Rev. Benjamin Balabhai. Many of the new scholars made a stand for Christ. One of our seven Hindu boarders was among this group.

Last year our school was inspected by one of our own alumna. Knowing our institution inside out she made few demands upon us. This year our Inspector was a conscientious, born again Christian who had the somewhat difficult task of being true to his employer and also to the work being conducted in the name of His Lord. After putting us thru the ordeal of our most exacting inspection to date he publicly announced that as long as he was Inspector of our beat he would do all in his power to keep our school operating along the lines now pursued. We thank the Lord for this man and for all those occupying strategic posts in the public school
system of this country who let their light shine for Christ. Certainly it is not by happenstance that such a very large number of our Christians occupy positions in the educational field where they daily contact the youth of the land and can at least by their example place a Christian challenge before them. Certainly we have come to the Kingdom for just such a time as this. May the Lord show us his divinely appointed way of serving, and equip us with the courage to bear testimony for Him.

**Youth Comp**
— Betty Dyke —

In October or November when the Hindus celebrate their New Year and all schools are closed for a short time the yearly youth rallies for our church young people are held. It is a time to which many look forward each year and a time in which many have made very definite decisions for the Lord.

Last October was the fourth rally for the girls started after seeing the wonderful results taking place in the rallies for the boys. Though the two camps are set up at different places they are held at the same time and our young people now have something definite to look forward to each Diwali season.

I have been privileged thus far to be present at all the girls' rallies since they were started in January 1954. Miss Blews has directed this work each year while various ones have taken part in bringing the messages and helping in the supervision.

From four to six weeks before rally time we go around contacting the girls and encouraging them to go. We make a list of those wanting to come so Miss Blews can order the necessary amount of grain, wood, spices and general staples ahead of time. This gives her something from which to work though there is usually a change in the number who finally come.

The day before camp is to start, Miss Blews takes the back seat out of her car and we load the car full with organ, pots and pans, lamps and lanterns, buckets and rope for the well, bedding rolls, suitcases and all the other necessary things needed for camp life. She leaves in the early afternoon in plenty of time to check on supplies that have been purchased and to get the kitchen staff on the job for the gang coming.
For the two years we have been here in Ahmedabad the Bible woman and I have stayed to bring the girls from various parts of our large city. The girls know where to meet and we part here at the house in the morning to go to our appointed section and then meet again at the railway station. First by train then by bus and finally a walk of about a mile and a half and we are at our lovely camp site which is our Kaira Church property.

The girls coming from nearby villages get acquainted with the city girls and those from our Mission Boarding School in Dholka soon know those who have come from as far away as our north station of Palanpur. There have been as many as 50 girls, though this year there was a considerable drop due to the riots and unsettled conditions of our city just at that time. The girls are divided into groups and soon find space on the floor for their little tin boxes and bedding. All are soon ready for registration and for the evening get-together that starts the full 4—5 day program. There is enough to keep every one busy: morning, afternoon and evening services, the learning of memory verses, a chorus and song period, a Bible study, and time set aside for a long walk or a few games.

From the very beginning we have tried to make the rallies self-supporting. Two years ago we had a large paper thermometer for the girls. As the money came in the girls breathlessly watched the red marker get closer to our goal covering the estimated expenditure of camp. They got so excited as the days went by that they truly wanted to see the red line go clear to the top. One girl gave her birthday money which she had brought along for sweets on the way; others gave everything they had — literally emptying their pockets inside-out of all their spending money. They gave willingly and gladly with no pressure whatsoever. Before there was time enough to count the evening collection girls would be at the table to see how much had been given and how much closer we were to our goal. How we praised the Lord that the expenses of over 230 rupees were fully met by the end of the four and a half days. This year also, though we had fewer girls, the camp expenses were fully taken care of. It has been to us a case of the windows of heaven being opened and the blessings poured out upon us.

The closing service of each camp has been one we always remember. Gathering around a blazing fire out of doors after the regular service we continue our songs of praise and words of testimony. One year most of the girls came up one by one
to a little table to sign a covenant of consecration which had been given them. As each girl came forward in the presence of all the others the meaning of the life lived with Christ took on new meaning and presented a new challenge. Each year many of them have closed their testimonies with a plea for prayer support during the days and months ahead. They go back to face trials, temptations and hardships such as few of us have or ever will experience.

Let us stand in prayer with our young people who desire to live out and out for Him. Let us pray that they will not forget promises made to their Master and that they will be willing to follow Him at any cost. The need for truly consecrated young people is a great one. We need prayer that India’s youth will not only find Christ as Saviour but will serve Him with a glad heart.

Christmas Festivities

— Leona Garrison —

The Christmas season this year was a delightfully festive one for the Christians here in Palanpur. On Christmas Eve paper flags were hung in the Church by the young people who had spent happy evenings singing and chatting while cutting the designs in the colored paper. A thorn tree was erected near the pulpit decorated as beautifully as any tree you might see in America — or at least so we thought. The manger scene on the window-sill with a candle on either side added the finishing touches to our meeting-room. The remainder of the evening was spent singing Christmas "bhajans" to the accompaniment of the violin, harmonium, drums, and a musical saw. Such an ensemble of instruments I had never heard before, but they did make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

The Christmas service was most colorful and interesting. Every woman wore a beautiful sari, while the little girls sparkled in bright-colored dresses with ribbons or flowers woven in their long braids. Palanpur being a railway junction there are a number of Christians stationed here from other language areas. Consequently our program was varied. There were special songs in Gujarati, Hindi, and Bengali, while a Roman Catholic convert sang "Adeste Fidelis" in Latin! In closing a short message was given on the subject, "No room in the Inn."
Throughout the following week the evenings were spent visiting Christian homes to sing “bhajans”, and of course, the inevitable cup of tea was always graciously served by the host in each home.

New Year's Eve we gathered together to thank God for the blessings of the past year, and entered the new year in prayer seeking His will and guidance for the days to come. As soon as the meeting was dismissed some of the young people set off hair-raising fire crackers, and “atom bombs” to somehow make the town aware of the fact that the Christian New Year had really begun. Morning brought us together again for a continuation of the testimony service and a message by our young pastor on tithing. That afternoon, in our spacious front yard, a well organised sports day was conducted by two or three of the men, even to the presenting of prizes. This latter task I was called upon to perform. Before the prize-giving, one of the men made a speech in beautiful Urdu, only one word of which I understood, and that was the word “unity” spoken in English. After the speech John and I were garlanded with the brightest of yellow garlands. During all the fun and activity in the front yard, much work was going on in the back yard. Great pots of curry and rice were being prepared for about 70 people. At dusk, a tired but happy group of Christians lined our hall sitting cross-legged on the floor to enjoy a delicious dish of curry and rice. It was truly a happy holiday.

The only thing that saddened our hearts was the fact that on Wednesday, prayer meeting night, there were only four out to feast on the good things found in the Book of Hebrews and to seek the face of the Lord. Yes, the Christmas season has come and gone once more, and Christ has once again been relegated to the stable. Pray for our Christians in Palanpur that not just four but all shall come to know the abiding presence of Emmanuel this coming year.

FRUITFULNESS

If we do not abide in Him, it is not that we bear less fruit or inferior fruit, but apart from Him we can do nothing. It is either fruit -- good, much, and abiding, in which God is greatly glorified and man greatly benefited -- or no fruit at all.

— J. Hudson Taylor

Jesus word “much” made me notice that only those branches in full connection bore “much” fruit, the broken branch “scanty” fruit . . . . . How are your connections? The fruit tells - - much or scanty.

— S. D. Gordon
A New Year Check-up

— E. G. Jacober —

At the turn of another year it is important that we take time to examine our ministries for the Lord Jesus Christ. Every shop-keeper takes an annual inventory of his stock and we believe this should also be done in a spiritual sense.

In October 7, 1805, three of the greatest missionaries to the land of India drew up their famous spiritual “covenant.” These men were Cary, Marshman, and Ward, of Serampore. This “covenant” covered twelve printed octavo pages, and was read publicly at every station on the mission field at least once a year.

Let us examine some of the important parts of this “manifesto” in evaluating our work done during 1956 for Christ at Dhandhuka:

I

The first item states: “It is absolutely necessary that we set an infinite value upon immortal souls.”

This rightly has the first place of prominence for our lives at Dhandhuka. There are so few Christians in this station and only a handful in the whole district. We realize more and more the difference between light and darkness as we look out upon the thousands of darkened souls all about us. The message of I John 2:1-2 gives us encouragement for our labours. Christ is not only the propitiation for OUR souls, but likewise for the whole world. He died for every soul in Dhandhuka district. The price has been paid; the work has been finished. Therefore we have boldness to shout the joyful sound that Jesus saves!

This is our message and we have proclaimed it full and free to the lost souls of this district. We value every one as precious and desire to tell the story to all. Pray that God will grant us the strength necessary to finish this task.

II

Secondly, the manifesto declares, “It is absolutely necessary that we watch all opportunities for doing good.”

There is no sure way of making contacts for the Gospel. That is by doing good. Thousands of eyes are upon us as we live in the midst of the people of India. We dare not do less
than “good” in every sense of the word. As we let our light shine men are attracted to our wonderful Saviour and in turn give glory to our Heavenly Father.

This past year has been one of real victory in this district. Our many contacts have included the high and low and even as we write, men and women, singly and in pairs are coming to visit us and are asking more of the way of salvation and what it really means to be a Christian. Pray that our lives will be spirit-filled and overflowing with the goodness of Christ thru the Holy Spirit in 1957.

III

Finally, of the dozen points in the above mentioned manifesto we select a most important truth: “It is absolutely necessary that we keep to the example of Paul, and make the great subject of our preaching, Christ the Crucified.”

India is a land of religions. It is full of every sort of worshipper and object of worship. But we have seen that none of these gods or goddesses satisfy or give inner peace.

Our message is one thing: “Christ and Him crucified.” We proclaim it everywhere; in the villages, on the roads; in the railway trains; and in the homes. We have the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God to loose men and set them free. We praise God that our message was Christ in 1956 and will be Christ in 1957. Only Christ can satisfy. We therefore count it the highest privilege to preach Him in this land. Pray that God will honor His Word through our preaching in 1957. (Isa. 55)

In conclusion, we realize that we have failed God and our fellow-men many times during the past year. But we turn from failure to faith. We pledge to give ourselves unreservedly to this glorious cause. Our time, gifts, strength, families are not our own. We consecrate them all to God and His cause. Oh that He may sanctify us to His work! Brethren, Pray for us!