THE INDIA ALLIANCE

The India Alliance is issued in the Cold Season (Jan.), in the Hot Season (May), and in the Rainy Season (Sept.), by the Marathi Mission of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in India, to encourage Christians to pray and give for the unfinished task. You may receive it by writing the Chairman, P.O. Box 5, Akola, Maharashtra, INDIA.

-EDITOR,
E. H. LEWELLEN

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN*

"Thus saith the Lord; Stand by the ways, and look, ..." (Jer. 6:16).

Mr. Rogers came (to India) in 1887, and in 1888 Miss Carrie Bates and Miss Helen Dolly were sent out by Dr. Simpson to work in the North Berar Mission, they being the first Alliance Missionaries sent to India. Early in 1892 the North Berar Faith Mission was united with the International Missionary Alliance and Dr. Simpson asked God that twenty missionaries should sail before the close of the year to begin the occupation of Berar (India) for the Gospel. Exactly twenty reached India that year: but before the close of the year a second large party also sailed arriving in two sections, in January and February 1893, so that at the first convention, seventy years ago, there were forty-three missionaries.

Those early arrivals were recruited from all parts of the United States and sent to the field after some had spent only a few weeks at the New York Tabernacle. "There were Englishmen, Danes, Swedes, Irish, Scotch and variegated Americans among them. There were staunch Calvinists and ardent Armenians; Lutherans and ultra holiness specialists; Episcopalians and Quakers; those who took a strong stand concerning the mode of baptism and those who practised none of the ordinances; there were dignified college teachers and men from farm and Western Frontier; theological graduates and Y.M.C.A. secretaries, ordained ministers and Salvation Army workers. They brought with them enough possibilities of discord to wreck any such venture." When the first missionary party arrived, and had a welcome in Bombay, an experienced and respected missionary in Western India said that five years would see the end of the movement. But over against so much that could have ruined the early work were certain facts concerning all

* Excerpts from the Chairman's Survey, 1903.
PASTOR YESHWANT AGHUMKAR REPORTS:
The Marathi Church in Bhusawal, is one of three Alliance churches in this railway town (See Rainy Season, 1963), the other two ministering to the Hindi and English speaking people.

Since the dedication of their new church in April, 1957, the church has grown numerically, financially and above all spiritually. Under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Yeshwant Aghumkar. At present there are 125 members, with a weekly attendance of 225 in the church services. The congregation is supporting not only their pastor, but two full-time evangelists in the rural areas. In addition to the weekly young people's and women's prayer group meetings, three Sunday Schools are conducted throughout the city with a combined attendance of approximately 100.

Daily village prayer meetings are held plus a Wednesday evening service and a Bible class for young people on Fridays, taught by Miss Ransom.

Last May, 26 young people were baptised and took their stand publicly for Christ. Praise His Name! Won't you pray that God may continue to use the pastor, his faithful wife, and consecrated church officers for His Glory?

HERE AND THERE

The Al Shaw reports an “active” year in the missionary children's hostel. Twenty-one children make up the family. Except for two light cases of Hepatitis, there have been no serious illnesses or need for surgery. However, as this report is being written, “Uncle Al” is recuperating from a serious injury sustained when he fell, and he is back with the boys. Although there naturally are the “lighter moments” in the home, yet the Shaw reports of the seriousness about spiritual matters which they find gratifying.

The R. F. Perrets request prayer as they begin their work as Editor and Manager of the Khrati Jivan Prakash (The Christian Light of Life) magazine. They are starting three new literates, which at present has a circulation of approximately 2,000.

The Christian Nurses' Retreat held this year at Amraoti was well attended with nurses coming from as far as 300 miles. There were Bible study sessions on the Epistle to the Philippians, and they gave compelling messages on the nurses' relationship to the patients and the opportunity available for witnessing and prayer.

The G. F. Vandergrifts write: “In December, the 'School on Wheels' was sent to the various missions in the state. The teams were made up of three men to each group. The students came back to school with glowing reports of the blessing they had received while puting to a practical use the lessons taught them during the school year. Many Gospel tracts and hundreds of tracts were distributed.

Village Christians were strengthened and encouraged in the faith, and many non-Christians were contacted.”

ABOUT THE COVER PICTURE

This picture was taken while sitting beside Rev. J. Derr, as he “opened unto them the Scripture” in a Sunday morning service in the village of Wai, Murtazapur District.

SON, DAUGHTER, "WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?"

The Lord asked this question of Moses to show him that what he had could be used for God's glory. Perhaps to you, young person, reading this paper, the Lord is asking the same question. Why not offer those talents and training to the Lord? And yet you say, “But how can God use my talents and training on the Mission Field?” Those which are being used of God now, in lands not set down below, may answer your question.

THE TOUCH THAT TRANSFORMS THE CLAY

- Village Preaching and Teaching
- Scripture Distribution
- Medical Work
- Adult Literacy Work
- Child's Work
- Publications (Missions, books)
- Teaching (In Elementary, Bible and missionary children's schools)
- Administration
- Clerical Work
- Construction and Repair
- Artistic Ability (blueprints, posters, publications)
- Children's Work (Sunday School, VBS)
- Radio Ministry (Programming and Producing)
- Hostel Parent for Missionaries' children
- Mechanical Ability and know-how

And yet—how many more talents could be used if yielded?
of those early missionaries which enabled God to keep them together and to glorify His Name through their ministry. Those early missionaries had yielded fully to the Holy Spirit, the Unifier. They sincerely believed in the fullness of Jesus commonly expressed as the Four-fold Gospel of the Alliance, and they had a burning desire to make Him known among the nations.

Almost ninety years have passed since the first missionaries came to Berar. In all, 303 missionaries have come out under the Alliance, with thirty-six on the active list now, including those on furlough. We cannot take time to tell even briefly the story of these ninety years. First came the years of getting established, then rapid expansion and spreading out. Then came the famine years, followed by years of sowing the seed and solid plodding work throughout a period of at least two decades. Then came what might be called a gathering in, with exceptional response in the villages of North Berar. This village movement dates back for at least twenty-five years. Along with it came the development and organization of the church. In 1955, we entered a distinctly new period or phase of the work when we took certain clear-cut actions to follow out the policy of the Alliance for establishing an indigenous church.

At annual conference we particularly look at the year that has just passed. For some, we believe, it has been a year of unusual blessing, and extended service. For others perhaps it has been a difficult year, full of obstacles and perplexing situations.

Every one of our missionary family has had a vital ministry for which we thank God. We wish we had time to speak of each one. Short Term Bible Schools, girls' and boys' camps, manifold village ministries, reading rooms, and libraries, literature production, preaching and teaching and evangelizing—all these have made it a full year for all of us. Some of our number have been severely tested in body, but we are thankful that this conference time finds us all able to attend and to anticipate another year of work for the Lord.

There is great need for re-examination and re-valuation of our resources and our responsibilities and commitments as a Mission. And we need to be prepared to make changes where necessary, to get out of any ruts that may be impeding our progress. A prayer, the source of which is not certain, and which we should all be prepared to make, expresses the thought here so aptly—

"Almighty God, give me strength to change those things that ought to be changed, And grace to accept those things that cannot be changed, And sense enough to tell the difference."

But deeper than this is our desperate need for revival. This, (are we not convinced?) is our greatest need.

—G. L. CARNER
J. DEER, SPEAKING IN A SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

MURTZAUPUR DISTRICT
(261 villages—175,000 people)

Beezkie spoke of the “gaps” in her village. In a District of four organized village groups and three unto-governed迷你 groups, ministered to by one part-time evangelist and the missions, we are daily asking for the “gaps” which need to be filled. But how to fill them is the need constantly before us.

Feeling the greatest need at present is the strengthening of the believers, we camped in two villages where there were Christian congregations. During the day Ruth held meetings among the Christians, and the evening, by jeep, visited the outlying villages. In the evenings the Christians would gather again for prayer and Bible study—and how they drank in the Word!

Rev. Jack Deer, upon invitation from two other village groups, came and held three days of special meetings in each place, explaining the Scripture so that it became a personal message from God to each listener.

Between these tours, Christian Home Fellowships were conducted in twelve villages followed a short while later by another round of visits during the Christmas Season. To-date, there are 131 Christians in the rural areas of Murtzapur District, of which 51 are listed as scattered Christian (2 or 3 to a village). Last year for this Harvest offering of approximately 400 Rupees in grains and tithes.

Yet, due to lack of personnel, some are not visited but once in one to three years. Thus they wonder whether they will ever become discouraged and disillusioned? Will you not pray for these, God’s children, that they may stand firm in Him?

—EDGAR AND RUTH LEWELLIN

THE KHAMGAON GIRL’S SCHOOL

The remark has been made many times by visitors who have come to Khamgaon, “My what a large family you have!” The girls range as far as Bombay area, Nagpur, and two girls have parents in America. Bhagrathi has been with us three years, all the while the Christians would serve our neighboring missions too, has been a part of the ministry as we have students from six different Missions besides the Alliance. Bhagrathi was taught about the Lord in her village. Venu, our 7th grader wrote me while home for her hot vacation that she had witnessed to her friends and relatives in her village.

For little Venu, her love for the Lord and her testimony has been a bright gem for His crown.” —ANN

In the daily chapel services, weekly prayer meetings, Sunday services, we have been very conscious of God’s dealing and presence. Seventy-eight girls have given testimony of finding the Lord as Saviour since the opening of school last July. We are proud of our students as they leave us and live for the Lord in their various spheres of service. Bhagrathi S-nurse our orphan is very happy in her nursing training in Nagpur. Another ex-student wrote me a little while back “I do praise the Lord for what He did for me while at Khamgaon. It was there I learned to know Him, and gave my heart to Him.” She now has a home of her own and is witnessing for the Lord in her village.

As we have students from six different Missions besides the Alliance, we study—and how they drank in the Word! The remark has been made many times by visitors who have come to Khamgaon, “My what a large family you have!” The girls range as far as Bombay area, Nagpur, and two girls have parents in America. Bhagrathi has been with us three years, all the while the Christians would serve our neighboring missions too, has been a part of the ministry as we have students from six different Missions besides the Alliance.

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THE LAY-LEADERS INST.

Please remember to give for this school that in six years has been attended by 95 village couples. Fifty-eight have completed two terms of instruction and seven have had a third term. Separate classes are conducted for men, women, and children. The staff seeks to give them much more than it is seen of the family so that when the family unit returns to the village from which it has come, it will be a situation of family witness.

The dates for the Hot Season Term are March 27 to June 12.

THE WEEKLY MARKET

APPROVED SPECIALS FOR 1964

Approved Specials are special projects approved by the New York Board of Managers, donations for which may be sent to the Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 W. 44th St., New York 36, N.Y., U.S.A., clearly designated for which project intended.

$4,000—Jalgaon Reading Room
$5,000—New Location for Reading Room, Amraoti
$2,000—“Operation Lydia—Reading Room work in India.
$1,500—Additional, for Housing of Personnel, “Operation Lydia.”
$1,000—Special Equipment, Lay Workers’ Inst., Chikalda
$600—Electricity, Men’s Bible Tr. School, Nagpur
$2,000—Evangelion in Depth” Crusade
$1,500—Additional, for Housing of Personnel, “Operation Lydia.”
$750—Reading Room Equipment and Books, Amraoti
$2,000—“Operation Lydia”—Reading Room work in India.

WELFEE PRESS, INC.
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EDITOR, E. H. LEMUEL

Akola,
Feb. 24, 1964

DEAR FRIENDS,

You will, no doubt be wanting to know the circumstances of the accident which took Hilda Davies away from us so suddenly. Our hearts are heavy in the sorrow of this great loss, but we do not sorrow as others, and rejoice in the blessed assurance that Hilda is “with Christ, which is far better.” We look forward to that blessed day when our Lord Jesus will come back and we shall all be united once more.

After classes on Tuesday, the 18th of February, Miss Ann Droppa, Mrs MacMillen of Mukti Mission and Hilda went out in their car for a short ride for a few minutes of relaxation. They returned home in time for supper, and as they were coming into the house, the servants informed them that the refrigerator was smoking rather badly. It is a kerosene-burning American refrigerator. Opening the lower door, she pulled out the tank to extinguish the lamp. It is evident now that the flue was badly choked up with soot, and as a result the lamp and oil tank had gotten very hot, and fumes and smoke had collected. The instant she pulled the tank out, the oil and fumes ignited and the tank exploded, enveloping Hilda instantly in flames. In but a brief moment Hilda’s clothes had been burned completely off of her even to her glasses and 90% of her body surface burned. Hilda’s face was completely unrecognizable.

From the beginning, Dr. Miller, of the Basim Nazarene Mission hospital, knew that there was humanly no hope of sparing her life, but felt that if God had a purpose in sparing her as a testimony, He could do the miraculous, and so the doctor did his utmost. Through Wednesday Hilda’s condition seemed to slightly improve. She was given plasma and blood transfusions, and was carefully watched from moment to moment. As Dr. Miller saw his supplies running low we sent out calls to Akola and other places for plasma and blood donors. Hilda was rational at times up until Thursday morning, and even on Thursday when prayer was made, Scripture read and some sang to her, there seemed to be a slight response. One of the last things she said, as near as they could catch it was, “If you are going to take me, Lord, take me quickly.” On Thursday evening Hilda slipped away into the presence of the Lord about five o’clock.
PERSONAL GLIMPSES

"I love you Lord." These words spoken by Hilda Davies at least three times after her terrible accident truly express her heart to us. It was this love that motivated her whole life, her earnest desire to please the Lord, and which, through her many testings physically, kept her dedicated to her one desire to serve Him faithfully. This love brought enthusiasm into her living, her work, and every deed, often pushing beyond her strength. This love too brought her back to India when upon her heart was the constant concern for her mother she loved dearly, but who, too, had given her daughter to the Lord and India.

We who have known Hilda know of her intense enthusiasm which brought much inspiration to a dull day, in everyday life, in committee meetings and in any special occasion. Her thoughts of kindness were unlimited, always thinking of ways of bringing a little happiness to others. Whether it was a bar of soap for the girls, something for the teachers or her co-workers, she gave with a love that wanted to give because of the love that filled her heart.

"I love you Lord." This love to Him kept her heart steady and sensitive to His dealings. This too was very noticeable in Hilda Davies' life. She wanted her heart always free from hurting others and was sensitive to the feelings of others, asking forgiveness of those she felt she had misunderstood or hurt.

I have known Hilda since Nyack days. We never thought at that time that our paths would cross in India and that we would serve Him here together. We have been here together since 1953, except for furloughs. We have worked, planned and shared together in the work of our two schools, praying together over the many problems as we sought to help the many who needed help and guidance. We have felt her loss very keenly as have so many who loved her here in India as well as in America. We pray that the burden of her heart— to see the women of India filled with this love that she had, may be realized in the many, many that she has influenced and touched through her life and ministry.

-ANN DROPPA

"WHATEVER YOUR HANDS FIND TO DO, DO IT WITH YOUR MIGHT."

Miss Hilda Davies was always ready to do according to God's Word. "How can I further the work of the Lord?" Her praying and planning were always along this line. To further this plan she would put forth any amount of work and effort necessary. Nothing could hinder her.

Four or five years ago Miss Davies called Miss Margaret Williams of Ramabai Mukti Mission to give Bible Club Training to the students of the Women's Bible School, Khamgaon. To give new training always means new difficulties and added expense; nevertheless, never becoming discouraged, Miss Davies continued on and the fruit of her persistence is two Bible Clubs which have been established in Khamgaon. Also at present, there are five other clubs where girls who have been trained at Bible School are teaching small children in this well-rounded spiritual and practical program.

The Daily Vacation Bible School Course is also given each year in the School, and after taking the Course, many of the students help conduct these in their own churches. For two years we have carried on the D.V.B.S. program among unsaved children, and thus an opportunity is open to reach the parents for Christ. In one place a village teacher said, "The thing we have tried to do for years without success, these Christian girls have done in ten days." He referred to the success of discipline and cleanliness among the village children who come from homes where these conditions are indeed foreign. Through D.V.B.S. hundreds of children have received the Word of God. They sing songs and recite memory verses. I have faith that in the Last Day, Miss Davies will see this fruit and be comforted, and that her Lord will give her a crown of glory which fadeth not away.

Pray for our work. According to Miss Davies' plan, from August 10th to 29th, Bible Club Training and a D.V.B.S. Course will be held for those of the Berar-Khandesh area who desire to avail themselves of this training. It is true, the worker may go, but the work of the Lord does not cease; not only so, but labour in the Lord is not in vain. We give God glory for Miss Davies.

-TEACHERS: MAKAIAREH, GHIHNI, TAYDE

Miss Tara Tayde (Teacher)
The words of Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord," express the experience of those women of India who have gone into the darkness of this land to tell others the things which the Lord has spoken to them. Miss Hilda Davies, had written the following in a message on Acts 4:13 for her girls in the school: "India is full of educated girls but there are few who have been with Jesus and learned of Him. What will folks say of you?" She wanted people to say of the Bible School girls, "They have seen the Lord.

Mary Magdalene was an ordinary woman, cleansed and made new. She was the first one the Lord Jesus called to take to others the good news of His resurrection. As Miss Davies has written, "Mary's first work was to go and to tell." Her first message was, "Salvation is accomplished!" How was Mary fitted for this important witness? She met the Lord face to face, she listened to His message and she then went and told that which she had witnessed. This was Mary of Palestine. Who are the Marys of India? Since graduating from the Bible School in the '40s Gaya has been going and telling of the Living One Who saves from sin. Asha has married a Christian worker and, with him, serving the Lord. Kasum and her husband Moses have felt the call of God to foreign missionary service—the first missionary candidates of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India. Kusum and her husband Moses have felt the call of God to foreign missionary service—the first missionary candidates of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India. Kusum and her husband Moses have felt the call of God to foreign missionary service—the first missionary candidates of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of India. Kalawati, in her despair, found Christ to be the answer, and is now serving as Assistant Matron in the Girls' Boarding School, influencing young lives for Him.

The Lord endowed Hilda with many natural gifts, and filled her heart with a great love and concern for India's young women. She never sat back and enjoyed her accomplishments, but was ever building and aiming to make the Bible School stronger and more useful. Since the work in India has passed through a transition period, the work of the Bible School necessarily has changed. For the past few years, the school has offered four distinct courses: a one year home-makers course for young women illiterate or barely literate, a one-year course for young women desiring to be grounded in the faith before going on for teachers' or nurses' training, a two-year volunteer workers' course for those who have had only elementary education, but desire to be useful to the Lord in their own community and a three-year course of full Bible training for those who feel God has called them to special ministries. Many of the alumni of the Khamgaon Bible School are today laboring faithfully throughout the Marathi area, of our own Mission as well as in neighboring missions. These are engaged in evangelistic work as Bible Women, in Bible Club work, in children's camps, and as teachers and directors of D.V.B.S. programs in the villages.

Miss Davies was the originator of an Indian proverb whose meaning is, "The strength of the foundation of the Christian Church depends upon the spirituality of the Christian women." It has been this thought perhaps, above all others that she has tried to drive home to her girls, that not only the spirituality of their homes, but of the whole Christian community depends upon their relationship to God. As the Lord gave her strength and opportunity, she travelled far and wide in the villages especially to the young women who were experiencing particular trials and temptations, counselling, praying with, and encouraging them to stand fast in the Lord.

(Continued on page 5)
The casket was made right there in Basim and covered in simple white cloth. It was after 10 o'clock at night before we were able to leave Basim, driving the fifty miles to Akola, arriving about midnight.

Immediately we went out to the cemetery where hundreds were already gathered, including one chartered bus from Khamgaon with students, teachers and staff. The service was led by our Marathi Church President, Rev. R. P. Chevan. We opened with a hymn in Marathi, "There'll Be No Sorrows When Jesus Comes," followed by prayer and Scripture reading. The missionaries then sang one of Hilda’s favourites, "How Great Thou Art." Miss Sanford sang another favourite of Hilda’s, "The Love of God." I brought the message with a testimony of Hilda's years of service and the challenge of her life.

We cannot understand the Lord's purpose in it all, but we do not question His grace and love in taking us from our beloved friend and sister in the Lord. We are baffled as to how we can fill the gap left by Hilda. All those who ever worked with her will testify to her zeal and devotion to the Lord as a person fully dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Khamgaon Bible School girls then sang a song that Hilda had led them in so often, "Praise to Jesus," Brother Barnabas Kulkarni sang in Marathi, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."