The New Awakening

Ninety one years ago God began to lay Maharashtra on the hearts of His servants. Colonel Oldham and his wife, Albert Norton of William Taylor’s Mission and Mr. & Mrs. Fuller with others pioneered this area. Their names have not been forgotten and their work remains.

It is written of Mr. Fuller, “When the knowledge of the language gave him liberty he went from village to village in a bullock cart. At night he would sleep in the cart or the public lodge in the village, dependant on which was the most comfortable or convenient. He used the trays from his travel trunks for literature displays.”

Lives were molded and shaped for the Master’s service in India. That era marked a great awakening in Missions.

We have the third Prime Minister in India since Independence was gained twenty years ago. Mrs. Indira Gandhi as our new Prime Minister faces many problems that need immediate solutions. Young People in India are awakening to their role in World History.

The Church in Maharashtra has accepted large responsibilities. The support of pastors, evangelists and now a missionary to the Andaman Islands rests entirely on the Church in India. Evangelistic meetings in Urban Areas have met with attentive, responsive audiences.

Missionaries have to seek new ways to cope with their involvement in helping build an indigenous Church. Young people are crowding educational institutions, lay-leaders are anxious to push ahead, urban areas are growing very very rapidly, teachers and pastors need counselling, Christian literature lags far behind the need, and questing minds need guidance from companions they can trust.

Reviewing all this we as a missionary family have pledged ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, using God’s Word as our directive to pray and seek God’s face for His strategy in this awakening age.

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THE INDIA ALLIANCE is printed tri-annually by the Maharashtra Field of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in India. We want to encourage Christians to pray and to give to our unfinished task in this land. One of your missionary friends in India is sending this paper to you. You may receive additional copies by writing the Chairman, P. O. Box 5, Akola, Maharashtra, India.

Editor MRS. D. W. CARTMEL

Cover photo—Mary Bauman
The Potter works at his task
With patience, love and skill.
A vessel molds and shapes
And alters again to his will.

There is a Master Potter
That surpasses the knowledge of men.
He gathers the lost and loves them
And restores to His image again.

—Selected
A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Many mothers, grandmothers, school teachers, nurses, pastor's wives and Sunday School teachers throughout Maharashtra received training at our Khamgaon Girls' school, where religious education is part of the curriculum. Many lives have been quickened by His Spirit during those early days and have maintained their testimony.

Lata, who was in first grade last year, went home for Christmas vacation begging her mother to become a Christian. While washing clothes at the river bank Lata talked to her mother telling her, the story of Jesus, how He came and lived, and died, and ... "He is coming again some day on a cloud to take those who love Him to heaven." The mother cried as the little girl spoke. She confided in a Christian sister-in-law and told her of Lata's concern for her salvation.

In July the sister-in-law (who teaches in our Women's Bible School) came with Lata to school. The very first news that greeted me was, "Do you want to hear some good news?" I could tell by their faces that God had answered prayer and Lata's mother and father had become...
followers of the Lord. They were baptized in June. Lata's people live in a completely Hindu village and need our earnest prayers.

Manorama, has been with us since 1963. She also comes from a Hindu home. The mother has been a secret believer but her husband has been openly opposed to Christianity. Much to the father's displeasure Manorama was sent to our school by her mother's sisters who are Christians. When she went home for Christmas holidays her parents noticed such a change in their little girl. She had often requested prayer for her parents. Through her living witness this family too have come to the Lord and have been baptized.

Three other girls are earnestly praying for their parent's salvation. Rohini came to school in July 1965. Her parents are Buddhist. Her father a leader in the village. She has found everything so very new. She knew absolutely nothing of Christ and the Bible. She pleaded with her father to buy her a Bible. He kept putting her off, asking her all kinds of questions as to why she wanted one. She would not let him go until she had her money. I gave her the Bible and she clasped it to her breast as her treasured possession. Then she looked up at her father and said, "Now, you get a second one." The father replied, "Now you have your Bible and you are asking for another one?" "Yes", said Rohini, "I want you to take one home with you." She has given her life to Christ now. When the father recently visited her she said, "I am now a Christian." We are amazed at her boldness for Christ.

—A. Droppa
A Senior testified during morning chapel, "Recently I heard my little brother cry for milk. I began to pray that God would send him some milk. Shortly afterward someone came to the door with milk for the whole family! This encouraged my faith. Again I began to pray that I might return to Bible School to complete my third year."

"One day I was especially impressed with the Word in Matthew 6, '... enter into thy closest... shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and ... shall reward thee openly.' One day after coming from that secret place the postman arrived with a letter informing me that I could return to Bible School."

"His name alone is excellent."

It was a joy to receive a phone call from a Baptist pastor asking us if we would receive a student who was to be supported half by her parents and half by her church. I was very happy about this but, oh how I wished it had been an Alliance pastor who had made this application—the first of its kind to my knowledge to be made to the Womens' Bible Training School at Khamgaon. Pray that the Church in India will have some part in supporting Bible School Students.

Some have a desire to train for Christian service but no encouragement, or perhaps financial possibility, to fulfil the desire. Consider the eternal dividends in such an investment.

Last December three Bible School teams went to three different areas for ten days of Daily Vacation Bible School teaching and witnessing. Many children in Akola, Anjangaon, and Amraoti Districts were reached.

We had wonderful opportunities in Chandur to visit and witness in homes where keen interest was given.

(Note: Since this article was written an Alliance pastor expressed his desire to approach his people regarding the support of several students.)

W.S.

HERE AND THERE

1. A Pastor's Conference will be held in Poona April 18-23 for all pastors in Maharashtra who wish to attend. Railway Fare and food will be supplied. World Vision is sponsoring this conference and Dr. Paul S. Rees will be one of the speakers.

2. Two national delegates and our Field Chairman will attend the fourth Asian Conference to be held in Hong Kong in June.

3. Graduation:
   (a) Mens' Bible Training School, Nargaon Mid-March with nine graduates. (two from the C.M.A. area).
   (b) Womens' Bible Training School —Khamgaon Mid-March. Pray for the graduates.
   (c) Union Biblical Seminary—Yeotmal March 14 (ten students receiving their two year certificate and ten students their B.D. degree).
   (d) High School—Kodai Kanal, South India Patricia Vandegrift, Judith Derr and David Carner. These three missionary young people will proceed to the U.S.A. with their parents after graduating in May.

4. Mrs. M. Palaspagar and family will leave India soon to join her husband in the Andaman Islands.
REPORTS . . .

"The mature president of the Young People's group requested Bible studies. What a joy it was to see these teen-agers participate in the lessons based on the discussion method. Study questions were given in advance and the youth led the discussions that followed. They invited the whole church to attend. A good proportion came including new converts."

—Anjangaon Dist.

"Devidas stood with us we said good-bye to our guest. 'I was almost run over by a truck this morning', he said. 'Are you ready to die?' We asked. He gave a negative reply and then went with us into the Church near-by and accepted Christ. He is witnessing to relatives and friends. He is a leader of a small band in the town and while this 14 year old boy's hands beat his drum his voice sings God's praises."

—Murtazapur

"Ours is a city of two hundred thousand with an estimated ten thousand college youth!"

—Amraoti

"Attending the Santa Barbara School was a boy from a back-slidden Christian home. The Hindu festival of Dasara was being observed in the town. This lad's father began to make preparations like his neighbours. The little lad remonstrated with his father; 'We are Christians. We don't worship other gods.' May the scripture be fulfilled again in that, 'A little child shall lead them'."

—Akola

"Within recent weeks, in addition to the Prayer Cells started a year ago for Evangelism-in-Depth, an evening prayer meeting for men has been started. On Friday afternoon the women meet to pray. We need a revival. Some are being driven to our source of help—Our Gracious, Almighty Lord and Saviour."

—Jalgaon

A NEW MISSIONARY

"It was through the persistent testimony of an older sister that I saw my need of a Saviour. A few years later I attended a missionary meeting at a Baptist Church and there dedicated my life to the Lord for missionary service. Following High School the Lord led me to nurses' training and then to Canadian Bible College in Regina. Last year, my final year at College, I applied for foreign service and sailed for India a few months later.

"In these days of language study I have been finding the fulness of joy that the Psalmist spoke of in Psalm 16:11. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

—Helen Rast

NEW ARRIVALS:
David Chester Stengele
January 8, 1966, Kodaikanal
Priscilla Jean Roth, Jan. 21, 1966, Basim

Food parcels valued at $5.00 or less come to India duty free. Any bonafide gift parcel valued for less than $2.00 should also be duty free.
MARATHI FIELD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE—November 1966


*Leaving for furlough May 1966

Change in Assignments: Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Eicher—Chairman, Akola  Mr. & Mrs. H. Dyke—Murtazapur  Mr. & Mrs. L. Stengele—Mission School, Khamgaon.

Returning to India early 1966: Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Eicher—Nargaon Men's Bible School  Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Shaw and Vivian—Missionaries' Children Home—Kodaikanal.