THE INDIA ALLIANCE

Is A Mighty Awakening Possible?
by the Editor

Permit us to ask this question as it applies to India. As revivals are studied from scriptural accounts, and from history past and present, we are assured with the fact that God has never been bound by boundaries, nationalities, customs or history. We are reminded of the fact that He is the God that changes not. This includes His love for mankind and His yearnings for a pure and undefiled Church. With an ever increasing awareness that as we meet the conditions, God is bound to His promises, He would challenge His Church to dare to trust Him. Does He find us honest in our prayers, and ready to respond to every prompting and leading of His Spirit? Do we spend the necessary hours in burdened, agonizing prayer for a Church and people desperately in need of cleansing and a filling by the Holy Spirit of God, without excluding ourselves? II Chronicles 7:14 gives us the pattern. Brokenness, honest praying, searching, and obedience, including renouncing all that is not acceptable to a Holy God, is the requirement, if we are to 'hear from heaven'.

We are hungering for revival and are daring to pray and trust and claim His promises for an awakening in India. Prayer cells are being formed, and we are trusting that in many a neighboring Mission area as well, the burden will grow heavy, until by prevailing prayer, the heavens break with a mighty deluge upon this land. During the months preceding the November meetings with Dr. Duncan Campbell, many details will have to be ironed out, committees formed, plans made, and personal workers trained. Dr. Campb ell of Edinburgh, Scotland, used of God in the Hebrides revival some years ago, will be with us for the entire month of November. These meetings will begin with three days of heart-to-heart talks with pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers, followed by twenty-four days of meetings open to the Christian public of all Maharashtra State.

We would covet a mighty volume of prayer by groups and individuals for this land of India. Will you be one who will trust God with us?

THE INDIA ALLIANCE
NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE MAHARASHTRA FIELD
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

HOT SEASON 1969
NUMBER 1

This news bulletin is issued three times a year to encourage Christians everywhere to pray and give for the unfinished task in India. It is sent to you free of cost by some missionary (if initials appear on address label, or mailed in Private envelope) or the Mission. Special gifts to make its publication possible will be gratefully accepted.

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Cover Picture: Left to Right: Dr. F. Schrander, Rev. Theodore Williams
Times of Refreshing

It wasn’t easy, but it had to be said. ‘Please don’t invite people to come,’ went the announcement in the middle of the February Pastors’ and Missionaries’ Retreat. In our drought and sterility showers of blessing were now falling, and the news could not be stifled. Those living close by, and certain townspeople, just would come.

But this was not the time for an open meeting. It was time for us, missionaries and national workers, to get our own house in order. ‘If my people... shall humble themselves ...then will I hear from heaven...’

As far back as 1965 our Chairman wrote in his Survey, ‘Many grievous problems press in upon us, in some cases driving us almost to the point of despair for their solution. But doors of opportunity abound, and God has surely kept us here for a purpose’.

Picture here the missionary’s dilemma. If the work of God is to flourish it must do so through the national church. There must be no initiative-destroying trespassing into the area of the church’s responsibility. How can the church, rightfully, eager to establish its own identity as a self-governing body, submit to continued guidance from the mission?

And yet, as we are all one body in Christ, there is cause for concern.

What about the appalling barrenness? What about the estrangement between national leaders? What about the lethargy in the face of crying need and unparalleled opportunity? Yes, and what about the need for strengthening the bonds of fellowship with the national brethren? What about the need for personal revival?

There was only one answer. National workers and missionaries must be melted together in humility, together seeking the face of God.

For seven and a half days in February nationals and missionaries ate together, lodged together, worshipped together at Akola. God’s servant, Rev. Theodore Williams, an Indian brother mightily used of God to bring spiritual rejuvenation, was among us as guest speaker. In addition there were very appropriate Bible studies on I Corinthians presented by Rev. A. C. Eicher. Lectures on pastoral responsibilities were presented by Rev. Benjamin Christian, a church leader of Gujarat, and seminars on youth and children’s work were conducted by Rev. E. H. Lewellen. All of

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A Foreign Missionary Convention
In India

It is believed that the Alliance Church in Akola, was the first Indian church to conduct a Foreign Missionary Convention. The Maharashtra Alliance Synod sent their first foreign missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Palaspagar, to the Andaman Islands in 1963. Since that time, people have prayed, given and pledged support of the Palaspagars. This was a new thought—Foreign Missions from India, and not to India. The Foreign Board of the Indian church has been feeling its way, and seeking to bring before its people a new concept—a sense of responsibility and concern for those in other lands. To bolster this understanding it was recommended that each church have at least a two-day missionary convention. Thus the first venture began in Akola.

Prayer banners of all the Alliance mission fields decorated the walls. Two banners with God’s words to Isaiah, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for us?’ and ‘Here am I, send me,’ were hung in front of the congregation. Between these was hung a large map of the Andamans upon which was written the question, ‘How can I go?’, followed by the appropriate answers.

During the two evenings of the convention, the need of the Islands was portrayed by enlarged photos, slides, and messages on the spiritual basis of missions. All of these illustrated the workings of God now taking place through the faithful ministries of Moses and Kusum Palaspagar. On the last evening a challenge was presented to young people for those who would be willing to go if the Lord called them. Two young men responded. In a land where the family system is strong, and where the only support for aged and ailing parents is supplied by their sons and daughters, the challenge he was presented to the parents, to be willing to let their children go, and stand behind them in prayer. It was a moving sight to see about 25 to 30 serious-minded parents stand to their feet, after first counting the cost. Yes, new horizons, and new visions are opening to God’s people in India. Pray that visions will still be enlarged, and that young people will answer God’s call from India.

An Urgent Need:
A Camp-Meeting Tent

Due to more emphasis being given to special efforts in every phase of Christian work, the need of a large tent has become urgent. Retreats for pastors and workers, camp meetings, women’s Retreats, Leadership training seminars, Literature workshops, missionary conventions and evangelistic campaigns are but a few of the many occasions when a large tent is required. The tent pictured in this issue is the only tent we have at present and this is far too inadequate for most occasions. Tents are available in India upon order, and for the size that we would require would cost slightly over One Thousand American dollars. Gifts for such a project should be sent as quickly as possible to: The Treasurer The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 W. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10036, U.S.A., designated for ‘Camp-meeting Tent, Maharashtra.’ This request for funds has been approved by the New York Board of Managers.
Requirements for Revival

The following account is quoted from a press clipping from *The Western Mail* of Wales of the days of the Welsh Revival. It gives Mr. Evan Roberts' remarks on revival, presumably delivered during the course of a service on the previous day. He is reported to have said:

'You desire an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your city? You do well. But remember, four conditions must be observed. They are essential. First, is there any sin in your past with which you have not honestly dealt,—not confessed to God? On your knees at once. Your past must be put away and cleansed.

'Second, is there anything in your life that is doubtful—anything you cannot decide whether it is good or evil? Away with it. There must not be a trace of a cloud between you and God. Have you forgiven everybody—EVERYBODY? If not, don't expect forgiveness for your sins. Better offend ten thousand friends than grieve the Spirit of God—or quench Him. 'Third, do what the Holy Spirit prompts without hesitation or fear. Obedience—prompt, implicit, unquestioning obedience, at whatever cost. Fourth, a public confession of Christ as personal Saviour. Profession and confession are vastly different! Multitudes are guilty of long and loud profession. Confession of Christ as Lord is of recent date. We forget that there is a Trinity in the Godhead, and that the Three Persons are on absolute equality. We praise the Father and we praise the Son. Can anyone produce a satisfactory reason why we should not, and do not, praise the Holy Spirit? When we speak of Him as a 'thing', or 'something', are we not greatly in error, since the Scriptures claim for Him absolute equality with the other sacred Persons in the Holy Trinity? Is He not ignored entirely in hundreds of the churches? Hear the word of the Lord: 'Quench not the Spirit'. That is the one way to revival. When the fire burns, it purifies. And when purified, you are fit to be used in the work of God.'

**LATE NEWS!**

★ Miss Helen Rast, having completed language study and in the work for two years, must return to Canada for treatment due to sudden illness. Pray for a speedy recovery.

★ Rev. A. C. Eicher needs prayer for strength and complete recovery after recent surgery.

★ Hot Season Short Term Bible School have just been completed in Amraoti and Khamgaon, with a total of twenty-three baptisms, for which we praise the Lord.

★ After much blessing and heart-searching had been experienced in the Worker's Retreat in February, it has been disheartening to see spiritual regression revealed in demands for financial security and in the seeking of position. When God works, the enemy works. Pray for complete cleansing and a new revelation of God's power and glory among His servants in India.
TIMES OF REFRESHING

(Continued from page 3)

these studies were enlightening and inspiring.

It is probably true that not one person in attendance at the retreat went away untouched by a work of the Spirit. Morning messages by Mr. Williams dealt with the work of the Holy Spirit as depicted in the Book of Acts. In the evenings, 'The Way of Blessing' was the subject. At the close of almost each service ample time for heart searching and prayer was given. Oh, these were moments of truth, and we were on holy ground. Who can describe the inner writhing which almost surely each one experienced as the Holy Spirit relentlessly, lovingly revealed specific transgressions? Men who had ceased speaking together for months and years were reconciled. Others made apologies. A crumbling before God of one's own self-will took place in many hearts. Ambition and competitive pride were surrendered. One man prayed, 'I am the hindrance in my church'. Others sought forgiveness for having no heart for the work. And so the list could go on and on. Probably the resulting blessing and joy of each one could be told in the words of those who testified, 'The Lord has shown me my true condition', and who might add with the woman of Samaria, 'Come and see a man who told me all that ever I did'.

There is a two-fold cause for concern which remains: (1) The commitments of those blessed February days must be kept fresh now in our daily lives. (2) In some, the confessions made are a good start towards that complete repentance which is yet indispensable to a ministry of blessing.

Let this be our song: 'Bless the Lord, O my soul... who forgiveth... who healeth... who redeemeth... who crowneth... who satisfieth... with good things... Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul'.

—J. L. AMSTUTZ

Rev. Benjamin Christian

Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Carner

★ We welcome Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Carner back to the Field and to Akola, as Mission Chairman, and Akola Home Hostess. May the Lord bless them in their many and varied responsibilities.
Maharashtra Field Calendar

Nov. 68 to Nov. 69

‘A Year of Special Emphasis’

2. February 4-9, 1969—Women’s Retreat.
4. March 1st—Arrival of Moses Palaspagar, missionary to the Andamans for two months of missionary programs in the churches.
7. March 25th—First Day of a 9-week Lay Worker’s Institute Term, Chikalda.
9. April—Hot Season Short Term Bible Schools in Amraoti, Akot, and Khamgaon.
10. July (First week)—Bible School Terms begin.
11. August (First week)—Lay Workers Institute Rainy Season Term begins.
12. September—Rainy-Season Short Term Bible Schools.
15. November 7-30, Special Services for Christians of Maharashtra State. Speakers: Dr. Duncan Campbell, Mr. Augustine Salins.

HERE ←— AND → THERE

★ Pray for those going on furlough in the Summer and Fall of 1969 that God may renew them physically and spiritually. These are: Rev. and Mrs. D. W. Capps, Rev. and Mrs. L. F. Stengele, Miss Ferne Gerrie, and Rev. and Mrs. Fred Roth.

★ We would pray God’s blessing upon Miss Julia Derr as she retires from the Field in June of this year.

★ Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Eicher would covet your prayers as they undertake the principalship and teaching ministries in the Lay Worker’s Institute in Chikalda.

★ Returning from furlough, we welcome, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Dyke and Rev. and Mrs. R. F. Perret in June, 1969.

★ We have been privileged to have Rev. Grady Mangham, our Area Secretary, and Rev. Daniel Bordreuil of France visit our Field this year.
The Unfinished Task

by Maxine Fenstermaker

So many unmanned posts,
So much land to possess,
So many human souls
Still living in distress.

So many outstretched hands
So many cries for bread,
As groping in the dark,
They find a stone instead.

So many substitutes
Which cannot satisfy;
So much indifference
From those who could supply.

So many fruitless years,
So much of life but dross,
Because we bear Thy name,
But will not bear Thy cross.

O Christ who stood above
Jerusalem in tears,
How oft Thine heart must weep
O'er our indulgent years.

For we have settled down
In self-contented sleep.
Awake us by Thy grace,
And teach us how to weep.

Oh teach us what it means
To have a broken heart
For those who long for bread
And never share a part.

Then teach us how to pray
'Til lips and heart agree,
Until Thy will be done,
In our Gethsemane.

Teach us to rise and go
In answer to our prayer,
Until Thy love is known
To all men, everywhere!

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