The INDIA ALLIANCE
These are tumultous days throughout the world and perhaps as never before in history, men’s hearts are failing them for fear. But in the midst of all the wreckage of mankind, which should remind us continually of our own utter helplessness, we need to remember that it is in such a dark hour that God can most clearly reveal his glory.

In the world picture political unrest and confusion continues to increase. In many countries, including India, disregard for authority and open rebellion with widespread violence and bloodshed have brought many parts of the world to near anarchy.

1970 has been a very crucial year for the Church in India. The second big move for union is now a reality in the Church of North India, and the official inauguration of this union takes place this month in Nagpur. But a very
severe set-back to this was the last minute decision of the Methodists to withdraw from the proposed union. The rejection of CNI by the Methodists has radically altered the whole scheme. This withdrawal means that almost half of the membership which would have made up the CNI has now pulled away. Other churches are already having second thoughts about the union, and are starting to back away. However, with the formation of this new church block the pressures to unite are increasing and many small churches which, because of their evangelical faith, have refused to enter into the Union, are now isolated in pockets scattered in different parts of the country.

Two inter-denominational meetings held in India this year are of particular importance to us and our work. One was the Theological Education by Extension Workshop held in Yeotmal in September, and the other was the EFI (Evangelical Fellowship of India) Leaders’ Conference in Nasik in October. Out of the Yeotmal Workshop has come the decision to form the Association For Theological Extension Education (TAFTEE) which will include, we believe, most if not all of the Evangelical Bible Colleges and Seminaries in India. Out of the Nasik Leaders’ Conference has come the proposal for the forming of an Association of Evangelical Christian Churches of India. Both of these proposals will doubtless deeply affect us and our Church.

There are now twenty-six missionaries on the Maharashtra Field. We thank God for the return from furlough of the Capps, the Roths and the Stengeles. Miss Ferne Gerrie has requested an extension of her stay in the States for one year. The A. C. Eichers left India for furlough in July. We are looking forward to the return of the Vandegrifts to the field early in 1971 after four years of ministry in the United States. With their coming, unless new missionary recruits are appointed and allowed to enter the country, we shall have on the field our maximum strength in numbers, and from the summer of 1971 there will be a sharp decrease in our missionary force. A total of 9 missionaries, namely Dr Schelander, Miss Ann Droppa, Miss Winnie Sanford, the Shaws, the Lewellens and the Thomases, will be leaving for regular furlough.

We thank God for all the evidence of His present working in our midst. But with these encouragements the work of the enemy to tear down has increased in violence. On the threshold of the November campaign last year we were all aware of the very deep conflicts in the Church and the struggle for power by some leaders. We had hoped that when our pastors and Synod leaders attended the meetings, their differences would be resolved as they submitted to the Lord and were united in Him. How thankful we are for those who did meet God in those meetings and their changed lives have borne fruit. But the problems in the leadership have increased and the rift widened into open rebellion and carefully planned intrigue against those elected to the Synod Executive Committee last April.

However, I would repeat that the picture is not all dark. Even while the leaders are in this predicament, God has continued working in the hearts of many humble laymen. Prayer groups meet regularly in places, and the youth are responding to the voice of God. In the last session of the Youth Rally held in Akola only this week more than a hundred people responded to a clear call to commit their lives unreservedly to Jesus Christ.

We are now thoroughly involved in

(Continued on page 6)
Frankly, we were distressed at the beginning of the term to see in the large class of first year students an attitude which seemed to indicate that a number of them would put up with a year’s instruction in Bible as a necessary expedient to get on with the job of doing something preferable next year. However, this attitude has drastically changed; to God be all the glory! Who is to say what it was that He most used to accomplish this? Was it the regular ministry of the word in school, chapel and weekly worship? Perhaps the B.K.C.C. Youth Rally jolted many of them into serious dedication. The visit also of two highly educated yet zealously consecrated new converts worked on the boys’ hearts. Man to man, these guests gave it straight from their shoulder, as our students gave rapt attention.

J. L. AMSTUTZ, Nargaon Bible School

Little Kalpana stands out among the girls as one in whom God has truly wrought a miracle. She comes from a Hindu family and for Diwali holidays the relatives came to take her home. As they asked permission for her to go home Kalpana began to cry. I was surprised as they are usually so happy for an opportunity to go home. As I talked with her she kept crying and said, ‘Auntie, I’m not going home’. I then realized the reason. She knew she would be forced to worship their Hindu idols, and for this reason did not want to go home. Kalpana is only a fourth grader but the Lord has done a real work in her heart. She came to us a very, very needy girl. In the hostel and school she stole, lied and used filthy language. She met the Lord during special meetings and during her vacation at home her people said a real change had come over her. They could not understand what had happened but she gave a bold testimony to them. It could be
It is a thrill to see parcels of literature going out in the mail. It is even more thrilling when we see contacts and fruit won to the Lord through the printed page. One day I received a letter from a young man near Chikhli (in the Nazarene Mission field) who said that he had just finished reading a book about the Christian religion. He asked us if we would please help him enter the Christian religion. We then contacted the Nazarene Mission and one of their pastors talked with this boy. He showed a real interest and hunger. He then came to the November Revival Meetings here in Akola and was saved. Another man wrote saying that he had just read a book about a person who had become a Christian. He pleaded with us in his letter that we please give him the opportunity to find the peace that this person in the book had found.

FRANKLYN THOMAS, Akola Book Shop and Library

The ministries of the year have been more or less routine but always pleasant. Two well-filled days of the week are spent at the Bible School in Nargaon. What a privilege has been mine to teach the Word, year after year, to successive generations of students, never to be bothered by administrative details and problems, all of which are ably handled by the Principal and other resident staff.

F. W. SCHELANDER, Bhusawal

At present there are twenty-eight students in the Women's Bible School. Five of these are seniors of the two courses: the three-year regular and the two-year volunteer course. At the Akola Youth Rally many of these lives were dedicated to Christ. They have taken up the whole armour of God, and we pray that they may never lay it down. Many letters with requests for prayer are received from students of former years. Quite a number of these are matrons or Bible women. Some of them are very young, but the Lord's hand is upon them.

WINNIE SANFORD, Khamgaon Women's Bible School

In approximately a six-township area in North Bombay there is not one protestant church. Small groups who are at present meeting by themselves in and around the Bhandup-Mulund area without any definite leadership or denominational connections have said that they would all be willing to come together if there was a church or hall to accommodate them. One such group is in Pratapnagar, a little distance off
the Agra Road, consisting of about 30 people. A few of these, in spite of the distance, came to the Bible Class last Sunday. If such a church or hall was built, there could easily be a congregation of 200 to 300 Christians. This area is building up rapidly with new housing developments, promising even greater growth in the future. This presents an opportunity that we should not miss due to lack of faith or vision. Other groups are now looking to this area, so while the opportunity presents itself may we move in with the full gospel message.

E. H. Lewellen, Bombay

Faith was beginning to lag after 12 years of battling obstacles in the business of transferring church buildings to our Indian property holding body. The last property report, however, sounded a note of hope that the task could be done within the next few months. We now report, with rejoicing and praise to the Lord, that the legal transfer of all churches, pastors' residences, outstations and other church-related properties has been completed. Do rejoice with us, and also pray for wisdom in the handling and administration of these properties for those who hold this new responsibility. Pray that each building may contribute toward the witness of the Kingdom in India.

Roland Perret, Property Agent, Akola

(God's Blueprint, Con'd from page 3)

one of our biggest ventures in the history of the Mission. In January, at the time of the visit of our Area Secretary, the Emmanuel Church in Bombay and the Dehu Road Church, Poona, became officially affiliated with the Alliance. After months of careful consideration and investigation the Lewellens moved to Bombay in August. The reports of the beginning of the work in this great city, one of the largest in the world, with a population of over 6 million, certainly seems to indicate the leading of the Lord in this daring move. The Lewellens have been deeply stirred and challenged by the need in the city. Opportunities for Bible classes are opening up in many places.

I wish I could now offer to you a complete programme with solutions to all the problems we face. How wonderful it would be if we had a neat little blueprint into which we could fit all the answers. But it never has been as simple as that. In fact, is not God in our dilemma reminding us that He is the Only One who has the blueprint? It is His program and His work, and He wants us to be His yielded instruments through whom He can work.

(News Notes, Cont'd from page 7)

* The Annual Synod Session held in Akola March 9 and 10, saw a new Synod President elected. Rev. Y. T. Aghamkar, the former Vice-President, became the new President after Rev. R. P. Chavan resigned, having reached (Indian) retirement age. Prayer is asked that divine wisdom and guidance be given to the new President and the Synod Executive, and for Rev. Chavan's continued ministry as pastor of the Akola church.
NEWS NOTES AND PRAYER ITEMS

* At the Missionary Conference in November six missionary children confessed Christ as their Saviour and Lord, as they were baptized by the Field Chairman. These were Tom, Bart and Tedd Lewellen, Tim Amstutz, Elaine Dyke and Miriam Roth.

* No less than 9 missionaries are leaving for regular furlough this spring and summer. We wish the Lewellens, Shaws, Thomases, Dr Schelander and Misses Droppa and Sanford many happy hours with loved ones and a blessed ministry at home.

* We are very grateful for the return of the G. F. Vandegrifts in early April and heartily welcome them back. Please remember them as they take over the Bombay ministries from the Lewellens.

* Rev. Carner Baptizing Tim Amstutz

* Rev. and Mrs A. C. Eicher left for furlough in July '70. Since then we have had word that Mrs Eicher has been seriously ill. Even though somewhat improved there is need for much prayer on her behalf.

* Prayer is requested for a smooth transition as the Women’s Bible School at Khamgaon will be amalgamated with the Nargaon Bible Training School as of July 1, 1971. Plans are being made to offer a B.Th. degree course at Nargaon as of July 1972, and the School will then be known as the Maharashtra Bible College.

* Pray also for the two Primary Schools. The Girl’s School, Khamgaon will be under the management of Mrs F. Roth during Miss Droppa’s furlough, while the property of the Akola Boys’ School is acquisitioned by the government, making alternate plans necessary.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUND INVESTMENT

The following are special projects approved by the New York Board of Managers. While it is impossible to make provisions for them out of the regular budget, any clearly designated gifts, great or small, toward any of these projects will gladly be accepted and forwarded by the Treasurer of the Society.

$25,000 Bombay Key City Project. Missionary housing and other needs.

2,000 Production of much needed Bible School Text Books.

2,000 Extension Theological Education. To extend training to those who are unable to attend a Bible College or Seminary.

800 Movie Projector, for use in Akola Library and Children’s meetings.

200 Gospel Tent, for Youth Rallies, Conferences and Campaigns.

150 Addressograph Machine, to be used for Christian Magazines.

100 Cassette Tape Players, for use in the Library.

$5 and $10 amounts for Children’s and Library Books.
MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. and Mrs J. L. Amstutz—Nargaon: Principal, Men’s Bible School.
Rev. and Mrs D. W. Capps—Murtizapur: Teaching and Evangelism.
Rev. and Mrs G. L. Carner—Akola: Headquarters, Chairman and Hostess.
Rev. and Mrs C. H. Dyke, Jr.—Akot: Village Church-related Ministries.
Rev. and Mrs E. F. Eicher—Amravati: Teaching and Evangelism.
Rev. and Mrs R. F. Perret—Akola: Property Agent and Sub-Treasurer,
Tribes work.
Rev. and Mrs F. Roth—Khamgaon: Literature and Alliance Girls’ School.
*Miss W. Sanford—Khamgaon: Principal, Women’s Bible School.
*Dr and Mrs F. W. Schelander—Bhusawal: Bible Revision, Bible Teaching
*Rev. and Mrs A. B. Shaw—Kodaikanal: Kodai School Teaching.
*Rev. and Mrs F. L. Thomas—Akola: Alliance Library, Book Shop.
Rev. and Mrs G. F. Vandegrift—Bombay: Operation Bombay.
(*Until Furlough).

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

God touched our weary bodies with His power,
And gave us strength for many a trying hour
In which we might have faltered, had not you,
Our intercessors, faithful been and true.