The India Alliance Maharashtra

RAINY SEASON 1973
CHURCH-MISSION MEET AT BOMBAY

The long-awaited and prayed-for Consultation meetings between the Maharashtra Synod leaders and the Mission Executive Committee from January 30—February 3 are now history. Dr. L.L. King, Foreign Secretary, and Rev. T.G. Mangham Jr., Area Secretary for Asia, were the representatives from New York Headquarters.

First of all, an agenda was mutually agreed on. Then followed 2½ days of frank discussion of "friction points" in our cooperative efforts to present the Gospel to the needy millions. Stenographic records were taken by both national and mission secretaries. This was followed by separate meetings of the respective committees to suggest solutions to the problems and concerns expressed earlier. Another joint meeting finally worked out a working agreement, valid for three years, incorporating as much as possible the suggestions of both national and mission leaders. The highlight of the 5 day meet was a brief signing ceremony. In short, this agreement will help both bodies to define their areas of emphasis and gives the church greater autonomy. We trust the Lord for a smoother and more understanding cooperation of church and mission personnel. Your prayer to this end will be greatly appreciated.

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

RAINY SEASON 1973 NUMBER 1

This news bulletin is issued twice a year to encourage Christians everywhere to pray and give for the unfinished task in India. It is sent to you free of charge by some missionary (if initials appear on address label or mailed in private envelope) or the Mission. Special gifts to make its publication possible are much appreciated.

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Cover Picture: Bombay Consultation Meeting in Progress.

THE INDIA ALLIANCE
2 Chron. 20:15 “Listen to me, all you people . . . Don’t be paralyzed by this mighty army! For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

In the thousands of Indian towns and villages there are 560 million people. This is a day of blooming families, bulging houses and burgeoning cities. The missionary greets each dawn knowing there are at least 35,000 more Indians than there were the day before. Seeing these multitudes the missionary can but turn to God along with those who heard the words of the Lord so many years ago, “The battle is the Lord’s.”

A review of our missionary forces is not very impressive numerically. We are reduced to 11 couples and three ladies. Of these 11 couples 2 families are on furlough and 2 couples are on assignment at Kodai-kanal, which leaves us with 7 couples in Maharashtra.

We appreciated Mrs. L.L. King’s visit to India during the year. The Summer ministries of three Alliance Youth Corps young ladies added to the witness to young people across the Field. Last November we enjoyed the ministry of Dr. Richard Harvey and Mrs. Harvey.

This year the General Assembly of the C. & M. A. became one of the first members of the newly formed Federation of Evangelical Churches of India. This is a fellowship of like-minded churches who have banded together rather than become a part of the Church of North India or the Church of South India. Plans are underway whereby most of the F.E.C.I. churches will cooperate in a joint evangelistic venture to be known as the Maharashtra Penetration Plan.

Rev. R. F. Perret, Chairman

The establishing of a C. & M. A. Church in the great metropolis of Bombay with its massive population of 6½ million has met with much opposition. Other promising areas in greater Bombay are Vikhroli and Mulund. At Poona the Dehu Road Church has been fully organized under the C. & M. A. of India. This congregation plans to build their church as soon as they can get over a few legal hurdles on their property.

The Khamgaon Alliance School, now fully administered by the Church, has been doing well. We are encouraged by the ability that has been demonstrated in the managing of the school and hostels.

Response to evangelism in rural areas is heartening. Opportunities far exceed our resources. Inquirers have come in for short term Bible instruction and there has been a harvest of 70 believers from the villages.

RAINY SEASON 1973
It was a privilege to be at Khamgaon Girls’ and Boys’ School, now under Indian management, for several days of spiritual ministry. The house-father at the boys’ hostel told how a number of boys, especially touched by an object lesson given by Ann, came to him and confessed wrong things they had said or done, asking forgiveness. We praise the Lord for the faithful working of His Holy Spirit in these young hearts and lives.

—Winnie Sanford & Ann Droppa, Akola

The work of the Church in Home Missions has prospered. Gains have been very modest but we are thankful to God that there are now seven baptized believers in the Banjari group. Twelve enquirers are asking for teaching and baptism. This is a hard field and requires of us that we stand together in prayer with Uttam and Mankarna Aghamkar, our Home Missionaries.

—Roland F. Perret, Akola

Eleven teams of three men Bible students each went to ten different places while one team of six girls served in Akola during early November. They all came back happy for the privilege of giving out the Word of God. Some 2,600 Gospels were sold and thousands of tracts distributed as they carried out their various assignments. For the second term the same teams have been assigned nearby villages in which they hold Sunday School classes each week, bring back their reports and get instructions for the coming week.

—Herb Dyke, Jr., Nargaon

Much prayer is asked for the Literature ministries. Through a generous gift from Bible Literature International we were able to order a 100,000 copy edition of the Gospel booklet “STEP UP TO LIFE” by Rev. E. Murdoch in Marathi. These came off the Press in September. How we long for thousands of genuine conversions as a result of the distribution of these printed messengers. May both the King’s decree (the conviction-producing Ten Commandments) and the Gospel of Redemption be published on an unprecedented scale while the opportunities are ours.

—Fred Roth, Amravati
Bernice has taught Sunday School to third graders and led a ladies' Bible study and prayer group on occasion. Al teaches science to grade 7—10 and has preached in church and weekday chapel on invitation. We desire the enabling of the Holy Spirit daily that we may do a good job of teaching.

—AL SHAW, KODAIKANAL SCHOOL

Two young Alliance ladies from Union Biblical Seminary came to us for their days of practical ministry. We reached out into Murtizapur District, giving out tracts as we travelled along the roads and selling Gospels in the villages where meetings were held. Witness for Christ was given through the testimonies of the two students and through pictures of the life of Christ shown in the evenings. Pilepada was the last village we visited on this tour. Mankarnabai, the wife of Uttamrao Aghamkar, the evangelist there, is a graduate of the former Women's Bible Training School at Khamgaon. During a visit one day she told of a man who had been touched in his heart. He used to drink but he had not done so since the night we were in his village. He expressed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray he may be truly born again.

—W. SANFORD & ANN DROPPA, AKOLA

School opened July 3rd with 145 students registering for the First Term of study. Seven countries of the Third World are represented in the Seminary this year. In November the enrolment increased to 157. 10 different states in India and 30 denominations are represented in the student body which makes it truly interdenominational. We have 20 faculty representing seven countries. This year we have 31 students graduating. The Alliance has had 10 students in the Seminary of which two will be graduating in March with their B.Th. degrees. They are Venu Ingle and Ulhas Raiborde. Four of our students are from the Gujarat.

A very large number of our students come to the Seminary with the call of God upon them. There are now about 300 graduates of the Seminary after 19 years of ministry. These are scattered virtually throughout the world in missionary work or as pastors and teachers.

—FERNE GERRIE, YEOTMAL

Venu Ingle, one of the Graduates

RAINY SEASON 1973
With any increase is the attendant need for those who will shepherd the small flocks. We need more workers. We want men of high calibre, dynamic, Spirit-endowed and fully committed to the task of feeding the flock.

A look at statistics shows that there are as many readers in India as there are in the United States and Canada combined. While it is true the readership ability level is appallingly low, readers are there and they must have books. Our publishing production doubled over that of the past year. About 8 million pages of literature was produced, but that is a mere drop in the bucket before that great ocean of readers waiting to drink up every word they can get.

If there is any dynamic we need today it is renewal—renewal that God alone can give. We cannot be satisfied with a conserve-what-you-have-and-don't-rock-the-boat life. None of us is excited about that kind of living. We look once again at the fields around us; we look within to search our hearts and open them to the searchlight of the Spirit; we strive together to fix our sights for a God-anointed workable plan for the future, and in it all—"OUR EYES ARE ON THE LORD."

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**NEWS BITS FOR INTERCESSIONS**

*NEW CHURCH DEDICATED*

* Although belatedly we wish to report the dedication of a new and bigger church in the village of Shingnapur, Amravati District. Rev. & Mrs. E. F. Eicher had a large share in making this new building possible before they left India last year.

*ORDINATION SERVICE*

* Moses Palaspagar, Synod missionary to the Andaman Islands, was ordained in the Akola Alliance Church on September 24, 1972, just before returning to their field of service. Please continue to pray for him, his family and their ministry.

*NEW SYNOD OFFICERS*

* The following officers were elected at the Annual Synod Session, held in Khamgaon on April 4, 1973:

**LEFT TO RIGHT:**

- President: Rev. D. L. Telgote (new)
- Vice Pres.: Rev. N. A. Dongre (re-elected)
- Secretary: Mr. V. K. Karmarkar (new)
- Treasurer: Mr. Y. V. Mankar (new)

We heartily commend these brethren to your faithful prayer.

*RENOVATION OF HEADQUARTERS*

* We report with thanksgiving to God the completion of a thorough renovation job of the Field Headquarters bungalow in Akola. Rev. Perret planned and supervised the operation.

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*Laying on of hands at the Ordination Service*
NEW MISSION CHAIRMAN ELECTED
* Rev. G. L. Carner was chosen as our new Chairman at the Annual Mission Conference in February, and Rev. E. H. Lewellen as Vice Chairman. They will appreciate your unfailing prayer support.

BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATES
* Pray for the 5 young Alliance men who graduated from Nargaon Bible School on March 19th. One of these, Daniel Donger-dive, continues his studies at Union Biblical Seminary now.

MISSIONARY KIDS
* Keep remembering all M.K.'s in your prayer. Robin Perret graduated from Kodai High School on May 15th, and Esther Roth leaves India on August 29th to attend Canadian Bible College.

LEAVING FOR FURLOUGH
* The R. F. Perrets and C. H. Dykes Jr., left India in June for regular furlough. We wish them many hours of happy fellowship with loved ones and a fruitful ministry at home.

RETURNING TO INDIA
* We are grateful for the safe return of the G. L. Carners on June 13th. The Amstutz family is expected to return later in the year.

May the fullness of God's blessings be theirs in this new term of service.

FIRST NATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
* Rev. Y. T. Aghamkar, Synod President until recently, was appointed as the first National Principal of the Nargaon Bible School as of May 1, 1973. Pray for him and his new duties and responsibilities.

PASTORS' CONFERENCE
* Plans are presently being made for a B.K.C.C.—wide Pastors' Conference from September 11—21, 1973. The main speaker will be Dr. Ahmed Shah from Lucknow, North India. Do pray for a deep and lasting work of the Holy Spirit in many hearts.

INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS
We whole-heartedly commend the following special projects of our Maharashtra Field to the prayerful consideration of faithful Christian stewards everywhere:

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bombay Key City Project</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Theological Extension Education (TAFTEE)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<td>3. Marathi Bible School Textbooks</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>4. Special Youth Evangelism</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. New Library Books in $5, $10 and $15 amounts</td>
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Donors are requested to send their clearly designated gifts to: Treasurer, The Christian & Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, NEW YORK, NY 10036. 

RAINY SEASON 1973
MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS

Front and Second Row, Left to Right:

Rev. & Mrs. G. F. Vandegrift — BOMBAY: City Evangelism, Church Ministries & TAFTEE
Rev. & Mrs. D. W. Capps — MURTIZAPUR: Evangelistic & Church Ministries
Rev. & Mrs. E. H. Lewellen — AKOT: Evangelistic Campaigns & Related Ministries
Dr. F. W. Schelander (front) — BHUSAVAL: Bible Teaching, Bible Revision & Campaigns
(Rev. &) Mrs. L. F. Stengele — KODAIKANAL: Longcroft Hostel & Part-time Teaching
Rev. & Mrs. R. F. Perret — AKOLA: Chairman & Hostess (until furlough in June '73)
Rev. & Mrs. C. H. Dyke Jr. — NARGAON: Bible School (until furlough in June '73)
Rev. & Mrs. Fred Roth — AMRAVATI: Literature Ministries & Evangelism

Back Row, Left to Right:

Miss Ann Droppa — AKOLA: Sub-Treasurer, Women's & Children's Work
Miss Ferne Gerrie — YEOTMAL: Staff, Union Biblical Seminary
(Rev. &) Mrs. A. B. Shaw — KODAIKANAL: Kodaikanal School Staff
Miss W. S. Sanford — AKOLA: Bible Teaching, Women's & Children's Work

Not in picture: Those listed in brackets above and—

Rev. & Mrs. G. L. Carner — AKOLA: Chairman & Hostess (as of June 18, 1973)
Rev. & Mrs. J. L. Amstutz — NARGAON: Bible School Teaching (upon return in late '73)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

* Every Christian is either a missionary force or a mission field. —Selected

* Happiness is not having and getting; it consists in giving and serving. —H. Drummond

* Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down. —Anon.

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