

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, January, 1925. § No. 1.

THE BACK PAGE OF THIS NUMBER CONTAINS A BRIEF REPORT OF THE Indian Mennonite Home Mission work. A Committee of five brethren plan for this work under the direction of our Church Conference. These brethren are elected annually by conference. At present all of the members of the Committee are Indian except the Chairman.

Christmas week was crowded with meetings. Not only were the annual Xmas meetings carried on, but two days Anniversary, 3 days Jalsa, 2 days Church Conference followed each other in crowded succession. Most of us got "meeting" tired but all also testified to having received a multitude of spiritual blessings.

## Dhamtari Station.

Over eight hundred people were present at the Anniversary Meeting held on December 28th, 1924. The meeting was held in the open under the mango trees where Ressler and Page first pitched their tents when arriving in Dhamtari.

The 1000 dollars solicited for the Dhamtari Girls' School has arrived in India. We are very thankful to the Sisters of the Women's Missionary Society who have so kindly sent the money necessary for this building. Plans are now being made to erect the building during the coming school vacation months.

The usual annual Christmas programmes were held; on evening of December 23rd, the three departments of the S.S. gave a public programme; on evening of December 24th a programme was given under auspices of the Church and on the morning of Xmas day the Brother Ressler preached a Xmas Sermon.

### Medical Station.

The European Ward is completed. Dr. Friesen and baby Grace Elizabeth were the first patients to occupy it.

The foundation is now being put in for a new surgical Ward.

The Medical Station as well as the mission suffers a great loss in the death of Asra Bai our nurse. She was not only very capable in medical work but was also deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of all with whom she came in contact. She has served the mission both as a nurse and compounder for nearly ten years.

We are expecting a new compounder soon.

### Balodgahan Station.

On Christmas day the first religious service was held in the new Balodgahan Church. It was not dedicated owing to the fact that the building is not nearly completed. A larger place of worship was so urgently needed that we started using the building even if it does not have doors, windows, plastering, floor or benches. It will be dedicated when it is completed.

December 29th the Annual Bible conference began at Balodgahan. It continued until the evening of January 1st. Brethren Ressler, Lapp and Lehman gave talks each day. The meetings brought spiritual strength to many.

Brother Ressler has worked on our telephone line and put it into good repair, and with the new telephones brought by Brother Lehman from America we can again talk to Dhamtari.

Rice harvest is finished and threshing will soon begin.

### Mahodi Station.

We had a nice Christmas programme with distribution of a few little gifts to the Christians and sweets to the children on Wednesday, Christmas eve. On Thursday morning we had a good Christmas service with all the Christians and a fairly nice representation of Hindus.

All rice is harvested and threshing is going on. People say that there is about a half crop around Mahodi. In the jungle fields there is about a three-fourth crop.

Most of the people have left Mahodi for a few days sojourn in Dhamtari and Balodgahan to attend the Anniversary meeting, Jalsa and conferences.

### Sankra Station.

Since the work on the new church building has stopped it seems rather quiet around here. Nearly the whole Christian Community, except the school children and the Christian workers are out in the jungle cutting roofing grass for a big jungle contractor. Some of them are making good wages.

From the 7th to the 14th of December we had a series of meetings for the Christian people which were a great blessing to the congregation, and from the 19th to the 21st we had the pleasure of having Brother J. A. Ressler in our midst. His talks were much appreciated by all. Following these meetings we enjoyed the Christmas programmes. After Christmas a number of people from here went to attend the Anniversary and Jalsa meetings in Dhamtari and Balodgahan.

### Ghatula Station.

Two of our workers made a short tour through the northern part of our district and found the people very responsive; one malguzar asked that some of our Christians become farmers in his village.

Shimeon and wife have been located at Kaspur where he becomes the headmaster of the school. We now have two Christian teachers and also two Bible women who visit the houses of Kaspur and surrounding villages.

Sister Lapp and daughters spent a few days in camp in Kaspur while Brother Lapp is busy with the auditing Committee auditing the accounts of the various Stations.

Our visitors at Kaspur during the last few weeks have been Brother Ressler, Brother Smucker & family and Brother Albrecht and also Brother Miller & family and Sister Stalter. We greatly appreciate the visits of our fellow missionaries.

## The Home Mission.

The India Mennonite Conference has established and maintains two mission stations. Mogragahan was opened in 1917 where two workers have been preaching and teaching the word ever since. A considerable number from that district have become Christians but due to economic conditions they have moved to other mission stations and hence no Christian community has developed up to the present at Mogragahan.

Last year about ten acres of good land was purchased from Home Mission funds in the village of Potiadih with the view of providing means for the workers to maintain themselves without a constant drain on the Home Mission funds. Owing to various difficulties in connection with such a venture no workers have been located up to date.

Our people have been doing fairly well in contributing to the needs of the Home Mission. During the year 1924 the contributions were as follows:

Congregation.	Membership.	Am't. contributed.	Per capita contri.		
			Rs.	Rs.	as. p.
Ghatula ...	46 ...	77 ...	...	1	10 9
Maradeo ...	20 ...	30 ...	...	1	8 0
Sundarganj ...	312 ...	426 ...	...	1	5 9
Mahodi ...	34 ...	44 ...	...	1	4 9
Sankra ...	155 ...	82 ...	...	0	8 6
Leper Asylum ...	175 ...	75 ...	...	0	6 9
Balodgahan ...	396 ...	135 ...	...	0	5 0

These figures are not interesting until it is taken into consideration that 95% of our people have an income of less than \$16.50 per family per month, that 70% receive less than \$7.00 per family per month and that 35% receive less than \$3.50 per family per month.

In connection with this it is also necessary to remember that the greater majority of them have almost no property at all and the houses in which they live are not worth more than ten to thirty dollars each.

**J. N. Kaufman.**

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, February, 1925. § No. 2.

During the past month a number of missionaries, evangelists and Bible women were out on tour. Instead of the usual news items a missionary from each station is therefore giving this month some incident experienced in connection with that work. The incidents give a glimpse of the problems and joys experienced by the touring missionary.

The back page contains some items of interest relating to the India missionaries which were prepared by Brother Brunk and given at our Anniversary Meeting on December 27th.

Over January 15th seven missionaries from the General Conference Mennonite Mission happened to be visiting our various stations. The idea occurred to some one "Why not have an informal meeting commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Mennonitism?" The meeting was consequently arranged at the Maramsilli reservoir 16 miles from Dhamtari. Dr. Esch presided at the meeting while Brother Penner and Brother Ressler gave addresses suitable to the occasion.

## **Medical Station.**

Last week in company with Sister Lapp and two Bible women I was privileged to tour for several days in some nearby villages. We visited the homes of several patients. One home was that of a leper who has been taking treatments and is much improved. He gave us a very hearty welcome. He offered us spices, nuts, sugar and milk and also wanted to prepare a meal for us. We accepted the articles of food which we could take to our camp and sterilize before using but begged to be excused from eating food prepared in his home. In a short while several dozen people had collected in the inner court and our host kindly gave us the privilege of singing several songs and to give a short talk on God's great love for humanity. After this we distributed pictures and sold some portions of scripture.

### **Dhamtari Station.**

During the last part of January Sister Wenger and S. Lapp accompanied by two Bible women made a few days tour among some villages, the most distant being eight miles from Dhamtari. Everywhere we were gladly received.

We came in contact with school children from three Government village schools. Each school represented children from at least four or more villages. They were very anxious to buy scripture portions, song books and other religious books. Seventy three in all were sold.

We pray that the Word being read by these children, will have an influence for good in their lives.

### **Shantipur Station.**

On the 21st, Brother Ressler and myself went to Mogragahan to see the work of the Home Mission Station. We went via Maradeo and took Brother Parsadi along. Bro. Budharam had gone before to tell of our coming. After a tiresome trip, by ox cart, bicycle and foot we arrived at about 5:30 P. M. After a short visit with many spectators who had gathered we had a good meal cooked by our workers there. Brother Ressler being very tired with the journey retired while I went with the workers to another part of the village for a meeting. There were about fifty in attendance and all gave good attention.

The next morning we wanted to have further conversation but soon after arising a man came from home with a message calling for help from a family 110 miles in the jungles of the Baster State and so I had to hurry home, leaving Brother Ressler to follow.

### **Ghatula Station.**

In one village no white woman had ever visited before although the Bible women had made occasional visits during the past year. When we entered the village and went into a yard all the women disappeared. That happened at most of the houses so we sat down by the side of the road and began to sing. The women gathered up courage and slowly came out and listened to a song and the gospel story.

The village in which we camped never had any Christian teaching before a year ago. There is a distillery in the village and the first night we were in camp, while we were reading in the tent, we heard the village

headman go by shouting "Believe on Jesus Christ". He had been drinking and was going home drunk but he knew that the tent represented the work of Jesus Christ.

### **Sankra Station.**

From January 19th to 30th the missionaries and most of the Christian workers from the Sankra Station camped in a mango orchard 9 miles from home.

Together with the workers in this station we worked in twenty one villages in that part of the district. A few villages were reached by motor that had never been visited by any of the missionaries nor by our Indian workers. We found a hearty welcome in every village. Interest and attendance was very good in all meetings. Close to a hundred books were sold and many tracts distributed. The last evening out a large Cobra called at the small tent and lost its life on the ground.

### **Balodgahan Station.**

While Brother and Sister Lehman were here and consented to look after our work we went for a short preaching trip. Sister Good went with us. We visited Chikhli one of our out stations. We had to pass over some bad road in order to reach this station. Our cart with all our goods got fast in sand in the river and we had to sleep in rice-straw with our bedding. The people in all the villages where we were, were ready to listen. We did not find much demand for books however. More preaching ought to be done in Kanker State. But who will do it until we get more missionaries!

### **Mahodi Station.**

One evening we were sitting and having a splendid meeting with about twenty-five men when in walked two Brahmans. They sat and listened attentively. We saw by their faces that they intended to say something. We silently prayed that they would let us have our say first. They did. Then they wanted to sit and argue that all roads lead to God. Ram, Sita, Shiv, Krishna etc. We told them we did not come to argue. We came out to present our great Preacher, the Master and the Lord. In contrast to this was one meeting in which three men earnestly asked questions, wanting to learn. Finally they said, "Yes this surely is the true religion, but how can we break caste and be an out-caste". After prayer and after telling them that man made caste, not God, we left them. We want to visit them again.

**Some Facts about our Missionary Personnel**  
**Covering first 25 years.**

In all there have been thirty eight missionaries in the India Mission of which twenty-two are on the field to day. Of the sixteen who have left the work, four were removed by death; one went home to educate her children and; eleven were compelled to leave on account of health reasons. Of those who had to go home for reasons of health all except two went during their first term of service. From among those whose health failed none were single missionaries.

The shortest term of service of any missionary was sixteen months while, the longest term is twenty-three years. This makes the average length of service of all India missionaries nine years. Eight of the personnel however served less than two years while eighteen of the missionaries have already completed fifteen and one-half years each.

Practically all of the missionaries have had some special training in preparation for their work. Twelve completed their college work, four took medical degrees and four finished their courses in Nurses Training.

Out of the twenty-five years there were seven years which brought us no new recruits.

*A. C. Brank.*

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV. § Dhamtari, C.P., India, May & June, 1925. § Nos. 5 & 6.

## NAINI TAL NEWS.

Mrs. Esch and two children arrived in Naini Tal on May 15th. It is needless to say that the rest of the children gave them a hearty welcome.

The Committees of the Himalayan School are busy these weeks trying to find a permanent location for the school. The enrollment this year is the same as last year, Fifty-nine. The personelle of the school has changed considerably due to the fact that many of the pupils who were present last year have gone home on furlough and others have come in. The teaching staff is complete this year.

A Convention is being planned for June for deepening the spiritual lives of the missionaries and others who are on vacation in the Station. The names of the speakers have not yet been announced.

The weekly Prayer Meeting is held on Tuesday Evening and is much appreciated by all who attend.

This year a Servant's Sunday School class has been organized with Mrs. Branch and Dr. Thomson as Leaders. Hindus and Mohammedans attend as well as Christians. The attendance and interest is good.

## MEDICAL STATION.

Sister Wenger and Lois Lapp left for Darjeeling on the 4th of May. They had expected to go to Kashmere but changed their plans at the last moment on account of reports of cholera being prevalent at the latter place.

The little boy that was run over by an auto and sustained a double fracture of the left leg with severe

bruises is doing as well as can be expected. We hope he may be out in a few days.

The foundation for the main building of the new Hospital is being put in this hot season. We expect to finish the building after the rains.

George Paul the son of one of our oldest evangelists (who passed away some years ago) has just finished his second year of Medical work in the Medical College at Nagpur. He has been doing well in the work there and we have good hopes for his future. He is working in the Hospital during his summer vacation. He has two more years to finish his work at Nagpur.

### SHANTIPUR.

Sister Esch with the two smallest children left for Naini Tal on the 13th of May. A wire was received telling of their safe arrival. Things are very quiet and lonely around here now.

Budhu Lal one of the untainted boys of the Home here has returned from the Agricultural College in Allahabad where he has just finished a two years course in Agriculture. He may return for a little more farm experience. Then we hope to use him in the farm and school work in the Leper Asylum.

The Leper Asylum Congregation is considerably inconvenienced now on account of the temporary place of worship which has now for the second time been blown down and the new church is not yet built. Our religion doesn't depend upon a house yet it is hard to keep up the church work properly without a proper place to meet in.

Sister Janki, one of the few inmates of the Leper Home who were here when the home was begun and was one of the matrons and a dependable worker among the women, passed to her eternal reward a few days ago. She had been in feeble health for some time and was praying for months that she might be taken to be with the Lord whom she had learned to know and love.

### SANKRA.

Sankra is without a resident missionary this hot season. But the work still goes on. The evangelists

and Bible Women are at their work regularly. One visit is made there weekly by the missionary in temporary charge. There are usually a number of sick folks to see when they know that the doctor is coming.

### GHATULA.

One of our brethren, Shivram, was recently married to a young woman who had been an inmate of the Widows' Home. He is in our employ as a cartman and general servant around our station. He has had a little training in simple carpentry and is good at doing simple repairs.

Tigers and panthers have done great harm to man and beast in the region of our Mission. We hope the rainy season coming on will cause them to lessen their depredations.

One of our new converts has become a farmer for one of our Christian families. It is interesting to note that the Church committee of the Ghatula congregation passed a resolution that no new converts were to look to the Mission for financial help or support but that our Indian brethren should seek to give them employ in case work is available. As a Mission we feel that this is a step in advance.

### DARJEELING.

Special meetings for the deepening of the spiritual life were held in the station for all Europeans who could attend. Bishop Frederick Fisher of the Methodist Church and Brother Geo. J. Lapp were the speakers. Great interest and good fellowship were manifested. A number of unsaved accepted Christ in the special evangelistic services.

There have been unusual rains for this time of year. The weather has been cool and the mountains look beautifully green.

Brother Lapp and family leave Darjeeling on Tuesday the 2nd of June. Dr. Troyers, Sister Wenger and Brother & Sister Brunk and Sister Good will stay on a couple of weeks longer. Over 200 missionaries from all parts of India have been spending these few months in this wonderful hill station.



## SUNDERGANJ.

(1). The Sunderganj Church building is ready for the roof. The hot-season being mild has made it possible to do more building than would otherwise have been possible.

(2). The Miller bungalow which is being enlarged will be ready for occupancy by the beginning of the rains.

(3). The Girls' School building is being pushed to completion rapidly. We wish the Sisters who have raised the money for it could see it.

(4). The Easter meetings held at Sunderganj have been a great help to the congregation. Church attendance is larger and more regular than previously.

How would you like to rear a family in a country where female education had the status indicated by the following figures which are the official returns for the Central Provinces, India, for 1922.

### Students in Public Institutions.

	Male.	Female.
Colleges ...	675	2
High Schools ...	3019	97
Primary Schools ...	228327	32085

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, July, 1925. § No. 7.

During the month of June all the missionaries who had been in the hills returned except Sister Esch who will remain in Naini Tal with her own and the Friesen children until the close of the school year there, Sister Miller who will remain in the language school in Landour until the end of July and Dr. Troyers and Sister Wenger who return early in July.

The monsoon began here on the 10th of June and the people in all the stations are busy sowing rice and other seed. The seed of the Kingdom is also being sown. Will you help to bring it to fruitage by your prayers.

### **Sankra Station.**

A pall of sadness came over the Christian community at Sankra recently while the missionaries were absent from the station. Brother Sunher, who was working on the public irrigation works about eight miles from home was bitten by a snake in the early morning. He did not take it seriously and after he had done what he could by biting the wound and sucking out what he could of the poison he felt better and went to work. In a few hours he became faint. There was no one there to help but a Hindu quack who revived him a time or two but he finally became entirely unconscious and passed away at about 11 o'clock. He leaves a wife and five small children. The case is all the more sad because he might have been saved if he had had proper medical attention but no one of the missionaries knew of it till he was gone.

### Ghatula Station.

The missionaries returned from Darjeeling the first week in June. The summer road was washed out of the Mahanadi river necessitating hitching a team of buffaloes to the motor car to help them across the deep sand. On their way home a large tiger crossed the road in front of the car. Brother Lapp shot at him. The tiger jumped as though he were wounded but the missionaries did not stop to investigate for they did not know what he might do next. Wild jungle animals have killed a number of people in the vicinity of the Ghatula bungalow recently and the missionaries cannot safely sleep out of doors at night. This is difficult when the weather is hot as the bungalow becomes very uncomfortable.

Harriet Lapp remained in Darjeeling in school and Lois returned with her parents to be with them until the spring of 1926.

The Bible School opened the 22nd of June.

### Sundarganj Station.

The Girls' School will open for the new session in the new building on the 15th of July. We are thankful to the donors who have made this new building possible.

The weaving school in connection with the Boys' Orphanage has woven enough cloth to make one shirt and a pair of trousers for each inmate in the orphanage. The fly-shuttle looms that are used in the school enable the weavers to weave about one-third more cloth per day than can be woven on the simpler village looms.

The boys in one section of the Orphanage school are taking a keen interest in a house-building project. They are making the house of mud and are learning what benefit can be derived from providing windows for ventilation and light.

### Balodgahan Station.

It is a pleasure to get back home after a short furlough to the hills. However, the burden of the details

of the work robs one of some of the time for meditation and prayer which we especially enjoy in the hills.

While we were away two sisters of this congregation passed to their reward.

A case of small-pox was reported to the missionaries this hot season. One of the Christian families in the village took the infection. Before the missionaries knew about it they had been in close contact with members of the family where two small-pox patients were ill. It is still somewhat difficult to secure proper segregation among our Christian people in such cases as they do not realize the danger of such epidemics and the value of preventative measures. They are improving in this respect, however.

One poor woman who had been blind for sometime has had her eyes operated on by Dr. Esch and is now again able to see.

### Medical Station.

The wards in the hospital have been over-crowded at times recently. Some of the patients had to go away because their condition was such that it was hopeless to attempt operations. Some of the saddest cases are those that come to us in the last stages of consumption. A tuberculosis ward, or still better a hospital would be a great blessing for those who would come in time for effectual treatment.

### Shantipur Station.

The school for the untainted children began this week with an enrolment of twenty-five. This includes the untainted boys and the children of the Christians that are living in our community who are workers at the Home. When the girls come over from the Boarding later we will have an attendance of over thirty.

### The Schools Our Missionaries' Children Attend.

The Queen's Hill School in Darjeeling, under Methodist control, is a two-days journey from Dhamtari and is the school most easily accessible in the hills for our missionaries' children. Boys to the age of twelve are admitted there and the school is patronized by those of our missionaries whose boys can be admitted there. The staff consists of five American missionaries, two other Europeans and seven Anglo-Indians. Of the 173 students in attendance, 49 are the children of missionaries, 33 the children of other Europeans, 90 Anglo-Indians and one Indian.

The Himalayan School is located in Naini Tal, a four days' journey from Dhamtari and is attended by the Esch and Friesen children. This school was opened nearly three years ago with the purpose of accommodating the children of American missionaries with an American curriculum rather than English as followed in other schools. The staff in this school consists of seven American teachers and the student body consists of 61 children of American Missionaries.

In the Queen's Hill School the children live in dormitories. The influence is Christian and those responsible attempt to make the life as homelike for the children as can be done in an institution which is not a home.

The Himalayan School to the present time has no dormitory or boarding arrangement and the mothers must either remain to provide a place for the children or leave their children in the homes of others as boarders.

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, August, 1925. § No. 8.

The Annual Normal for primary school teachers of our Mission was held at Balodgahan during the past month. The Normal was in charge of Brother Lehman who taught with a view of beginning the use of the project method in the schools. Brother Brunk assisted in the lectures and discussions on teaching the Bible.

While the Normal was in session an epidemic of small-pox broke out in the Girls' Orphanage. Consequently, the teachers from all the stations were exposed. We are thankful that the form in which it is appearing seems to be a light one and that so far no cases have proved fatal.

### **Mahodi Station.**

Owing to the unusual amount of rain during the present rainy season the Mahodi bungalow is "an island in a shallow sea". The water is up to the top of the well. Communication with the outside is cut off at times for days. The station can only be reached by walking, wading and cycling a distance of 29 miles.

Sister Smucker is alone with the work during Brother Smucker's absence of about three weeks. He is in Dhamtari attending to Brother Miller's work while the latter is taking a much needed rest in Landour.

Since Sister Smucker is alone she has been perplexed at times with medical cares. One case was that of a Hindu who was bitten by a poisonous snake. She was

called two hours later and found the man nearly dead. She treated the patient and God in answer to prayer blessed the efforts and the man is slowly improving.

#### **Ghatula Station.**

Brother Isadin's little baby girl, their only daughter, died suddenly and was buried on the 7th of July. On the same day Brother Lapp vaccinated twenty children of the Christian community with vaccine supplied from the Vaccine Institute, Nagpur.

The Ghatula missionaries were invited to a special ceremony which was held in connection with the opening of the new Forest Department buildings in a village five miles east. Hundreds of people from the surrounding villages attended. All present expressed their desire in one way or another to co-operate with the Government for the betterment of the villages and the forest.

#### **Sankra Station.**

During the last three weeks we have had about twenty-five inches of rain. All traffic has stopped because of high water. In twelve days we have received mail only twice.

The work in the villages is very encouraging. Sometimes in going to the villages recently we have had to wade deep streams. The people are always glad when we come. We find so many these days that are near the Kingdom. The main thing that seems to hold them is caste. We need more prayers of God's people.

On the 20th of July we had a Worker's meeting. The workers from each station gave a report of their work. After the reports we had a general discussion on village work and a season of prayer in behalf of the Evangelistic work in the villages.

#### **Sundarganj Station.**

Five candidates for baptism were received into the Sundarganj congregation recently. More are asking to be baptized.

#### **Balodgahan Station.**

The Christian workers held a helpful all day prayer service in which the time was taken up in prayer and Bible readings on the subject.

Rug weaving has been begun on two looms in the Widows' Home.

On the 15th of July a little baby girl eighteen days old was brought to us. Her mother died when she was eight days old. The father carried her in a basket over 30 miles. The grandmother and the great-grandmother of the child are in the Widows' Home.

#### **OBITUARY.**

On July 5th at 1:30 p. m. Baby Helen Rowina Esch, aged 1 year 9 months 7 days, left her loved ones to join that happy throng of children around the Great White Throne. In May her mother took her to Naini Tal to be with the older children who are in school. Helen was not contented there but always wanted to go home being lonely for her father and Indian friends. One week before her death she took sick with dysentery. Brother Esch was called to her bedside July 1st. Burdened, anxious and praying he started on the long journey, arriving there July 4th. She was too sick to recognize her father, but it was a comfort to all to have him see her yet alive. Without a struggle she quietly slipped away into the life beyond. She leaves her parents, one brother, four sisters and many friends to think of her as a beautiful bud blooming in God's wonderful garden. Although none of our missionaries could be present, there were many kind friends to help and sympathize with the sorrowing family. Her little body rests in the same cemetery only a few yards from Sister Friesen's grave.

## CHILD LIFE IN OUR MISSION.

+++++

No. of children in our Christian community under school age:			
	whose mothers are day laborers. (Earning 4 or 5 cents a day) ...		104
"	"	school teachers ...	13
"	"	nurses ...	2
"	"	Bible Women ...	50
"	"	in other occupations ...	18
"	"	do no work that takes them out of their homes ...	49
Total number of children under six years of age.			236

From the above figures it can be seen that a large proportion of the children in the Mission are children of poor parents whose mothers must be out of their homes much of the day in order to help support the family. Provision is made by the Mission for supplementing the feeding of school children whose parents are too poor to properly nourish them. Much remains to be done, however, in providing better care for children under school age whose parents became Christians as adults and who are still ignorant of many of the needs of childhood both spiritual and physical. There is a great need for more time on the part of missionaries to devote to child care. The task is great in the Christian community but in the non-Christian community in the villages about us the field is almost unlimited. The children need the care that the Friend of children would have them receive that they may grow up for Him and that also through the child the parents may be led to the Master.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, September 1925. § No. 9.

## **Sundarganj Station.**

A class of fourteen are receiving instruction preparatory for baptism. These are all children from Christian homes except three.

Some of our illiterate adult Christians have asked to be taught to read so as to be able to read the Bible. A brother has volunteered to teach them free of charge and a class has been organized. Learning to read Hindi is much easier than learning to read English because the language is phonetic.

A number of our Christian masons have volunteered to work at less than regular wages in completing our Church building.

The new building for the Dhamtari Girls' School is now completed and the teachers and girls are happy in this new and much needed building.

## **Balodgahan Station.**

An interesting Workers' Meeting was held here on August third.

An effort has been made this month to improve the spiritual life of the congregation by spending some time each evening after the people return from work in the fields in visiting them in their homes. Bible reading and prayer were always a part of the visit. God has blessed this effort.

In the fields considerable transplantation of rice has been necessary due to damage done to the late sowing by heavy rains.

Sister Stalter who was on the plains during the hot season has gone to the Brethren Mission for a few weeks of rest. Sister Good is in charge of her work in her absence.

The Girls' School opened August 11th. after having been closed six weeks due to small-pox in the Orphanage.



### **Ghatula Station.**

In the Bible School three periods during the week are set aside for special lectures on various topics. During the last two months the general subject has been prayer, based mostly on the different prayers found in the Bible. Such passages of Scripture were chosen as the Lord's Prayer, Jno. 17 ; Gen. 14:20 ; Ex. 4:10 ; Judges 6:15 ; I Sam. 3:10 ; I Kings 8. General discussion has been encouraged as much as possible and it is gratifying to note the real interest and intelligence shown regarding this great subject. Much teaching on prayer is bearing fruit in the Indian Church. Prayer for the sick, for the unsaved, for their own spiritual growth, for their Church and country, all not only stimulate devotion but increase their faith. Prayer will also deepen their spiritual lives.

### **Sankra Station.**

On August 12th. the Ford was loaded early in the morning with workers, books, medicine and food and a full day was put in working the villages. The first village visited was Sikosa about twenty miles away. The Malguzar (land owner) is a Brahmin and has offered to give us a place for an out station and stone to build the house. After a very good meeting in this village the party started homeward visiting as many villages as possible on the way. In every village large crowds gathered and listened to the messages very eagerly. Many books were sold. A week later the party started out in another direction for an all day trip and had the same good results. Many of the villages keep Wednesday as a day of rest in honor of Mr. Gandhi and on these days the villages are full of people who are not busy and they are glad to listen to the Word.

For ten days during the month special meetings were held in the evening for the children. The interest and attention was good and many testified that they had received special blessings during the meetings.

The medical work is demanding much of the missionary's time and the need of a ward for patients is felt very keenly.

### **Medical Station.**

The heavy rains this year reveal all the weak places in the roofs. The old hospital building leaks badly in several rooms. We are anxiously looking forward to a better hospital.

Our weekly prayer meetings held on the hospital verandah are well attended by our servants, patients and people who live near by.

Sister Troyer spends several days a week in visitation work with her Bible women who teach in the nearby villages. She finds the work very interesting.

We find much superstition among the patients who come to us. A few days ago a man came in with a bad tooth. He wanted to have it extracted but had been frightened by his village friends who told him that if he would have it pulled one of his eyes would surely burst or fall out. After being assured that extracting a tooth would not cause such a tragedy he consented to have it removed.

### **Mahodi Station.**

The Malguzar of the village has been very hostile toward the Christians for some time. He threatens to drive out the two Christian families living in one of the Hindu communities and finally to drive out the entire Christian community. Because of his attitude toward the Christians the work in the surrounding villages is being affected somewhat. The Hindus fear that they will also be persecuted if they are too attentive to the Gospel. The effect on the Christian community, however, is very wholesome. Nothing else draws Christian people together and to God as persecution does.

## Subjects for Intercession.



1. The Mahodi congregation; that they may be patient in this time of trial and that the present situation may work out for the good of the Cause.
2. The Christian Workers' Normal to be held in October that it may be a means of great spiritual advancement.
3. That our school teachers in villages may be ready for sacrificial service for the Cause and that our schools may become more effective evangelistic agencies.
4. A Mohemmedan and his family who have expressed themselves as desiring to be Christians and unite with the Ghatula congregation.
5. For a greater number and better qualified students for the Bible School.
6. That the Hospital may be a place where people not only find relief from physical ailments but also from the terrible disease of sin.
7. That there may be more conviction regarding sin on the part of those who have accepted Christ.
8. That the hearts of non-Christians may be more open to the Christian message.
9. The pastors of the Balodgahan, Sankra and Shantipur congregations request prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon their congregations.
10. For physical endurance for Missionaries to stand the strain of work.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C. P., India, October 1925. § No. 10.

During the present rainy season there were two and a half months of almost incessant rain and cloudy weather. There was much suffering among the people due to roofs leaking and walls of the mud houses falling. During the last half of September, however, there has been sunshine and extreme heat. Much sickness prevails. The missionaries find this season especially trying on their strength due to the additional work of caring for the sick and the enervating effect of the weather.

## **Sankra Station.**

During the last month we enjoyed another good Christian Workers' meeting. The subject was "Consecration."

The last few weeks our Evangelistic work has been hindered somewhat on account of sickness. Jheriyarin bai, the Deacon's wife and a Bible woman has had typhoid fever and her daughter also. There has also been sickness in the homes of other workers. It has been necessary to move some to one end of the bungalow to give them the care they needed.

A very pitiful case has come to us this week. A Hindu woman, deserted by her husband several years ago. She is now in a critical condition. Her mother and two children are here with her. We are doing what we can for her physically and spiritually.

## **Ghatula Station.**

The examinations for the first term of the Bible School were held on September 9, 10, 11. Most of the students made good grades.

The non-co-operators have finally ceased opposing our village school, after three-and-a-half years of opposition. The village boys are all coming back and are happy to study in the mission school again. There is an enrolment of sixty children and others are still coming.

On the evening of September 23rd a meal was served to the whole Christian community in honor of the ninety-second birthday of Brother Lapp's father. About sixty-five people partook of the meal.

#### **Mahodi Station.**

The Malguzar has succeeded in removing the two families from Mahodi village and has now brought suit against the Mission and the Christians living outside the village on land which the Mission had acquired. He desires to get the land into his possession and drive the Christians from there. The situation is difficult because the four-acre plot upon which the Mission bungalow is built is too small for the Christian community and the Mission buildings.

Pray that we may be firm in these times of testing and that the Holy Spirit may come in fullness and power on each brother and sister.

#### **Balodgahan Station.**

Sister Stalter returned from her vacation on September 25th after an absence of five and a half weeks. She had a pleasant visit with friends in the Brethren Mission.

Two baby girls were brought to us during the past month. One has found a happy home with Brother and Sister Bulwa whose only child, a son twelve years old, died some weeks ago. The other one is being cared for here. There are five babies in the Home at present.

The work on the Church building is progressing nicely. We expect the plastering to be finished by the second week in October.

#### **Dhamtari Station.**

The annual Sunday School examinations were recently held. Fifty candidates took this examination which tests the scriptural knowledge of Sunday School pupils on the lessons of the previous six months.

We are planning to hold a series of meetings for the deepening of spiritual life in the near future. This is to be followed by an intensive evangelistic effort in which the motto of the congregation is to be "Each one reach one".

A number of our Christian workers are saying that the Church in India is weak in not making enough of Christian holidays. Hindus have frequent religious holidays. If observed properly Christian holidays can be an effective means of spreading the Gospel.

The annual Normal for our Christian workers will be held at Sundarganj from October 21st to November 11th.

#### **Shantipur Station.**

On the 19th of September the Leper Asylum enjoyed a visit and a quite thorough inspection by both the Civil Surgeon and the Deputy Commissioner of the District. They were much interested to see the progress made in the treatment of leprosy and the promise of the future in that line of work. On the same day Brother Friesen and family called at Shantipur. Sister Friesen called on the women of the asylum and had a visit with them. This visit was much appreciated by them since sister Esch has been away so long and they have had none of the missionary sisters to visit them.

The building work at Shantipur was closed for several days during the month because of Hindu holidays during which time Brother Esch spent the time with the little congregation at Meredeo holding meetings for the deepening of the spiritual life. The meetings were blessed by God's presence. Communion was held there on September 27th.

+++++

#### **For Intercession.**

That a real missionary spirit may be developed in the Indian brotherhood.

That God raise up more spirit-filled, consecrated workers for India.

## THE VILLAGE OF BALODGAHAN.

<i>Christian population:</i>	In the Village	...	280
	"    "    Widows' Home	...	151
	"    "    Orphanage	...	210
	Total number of Christians (including children)	...	641
<i>Hindu population:</i>	Weaver caste	...	39
	Hermit	...	5
	Blacksmith	...	17
	Oilmaker	...	106
	Herder	...	51
	Aborigines	...	237
	Gardener	...	22
<i>Outcastes:</i>	Sweepers	...	4
	Leatherettes	...	25
	Total Hindu population	...	506

The village of Balodgahan was bought in 1905 with a view of providing a place where Christian families could buy land and provide homes for themselves. There are now twenty-eight Christian families who own land in the village. The tracts owned by them range from one-half to forty acres. They live in close proximity to their Hindu neighbors which gives them a great evangelistic opportunity. Caste has a very strong hold on the Hindus of this village. The conduct of the Christians is watched very closely and the Christianizing of the village depends upon the daily life of those who have accepted Him. We solicit the prayers of the Home Church in behalf of the congregation here who have such a large opportunity for service.

---

---

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

---

---

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C.P., India, November 1925. § No. 11.

---

---

Our Bible Normal for Christian Workers began in Dhamtari, October 21st. and will continue until November 11th. The subjects taught are Psalms, Luke, Matthew, Subject study and training in the use of the Concordance, Exodus and Pilgrims' Progress. Brother Friesen is Manager of the Normal and teaches three subjects. Other instructors are Sisters Lehman, Miller and Smucker and Bro. Brunk. Each evening special meetings are held for the deepening of the spiritual life of the workers. The interest has been good although malaria fever has kept some from attending the classes regularly. During the Normal some special lectures on Mennonite History and other subjects will be given.

On the last page of this issue will be seen some interesting statistics concerning Kanker, the Native State, included in the territory of our Mission. There are over 600 of these states in India administered by native kings and under English suzerainty. Kanker presents a needy field to the Mission which we are very anxious to enter but to the present time no missionary has been available to station there although touring has been done in the state when it has been possible and medical aid has been given at times to the king and to members of the royal family by missionaries when called. Pray that the time may soon come when this needy field may be occupied.

During the past month some of the missionaries passed through an experience that will not soon be forgotten. At about 1:30 P. M. on the 13th. word reached Dhamtari through a special messenger that Bro. and Sister Smucker at Mahodi were seriously ill and that Dr. Troyer was wanted at once. Motoring all the way was impossible, so about an hour after the message was received Dr. Troyer and Bro. Lehman were in Bro. Miller's motor holding their bicycles on the running boards to be taken over the first nine miles of motorable road and to be ferried over the river and then into the jungle to try if possible to get through it to a road beyond before dark. At the edge of the jungle they mounted their wheels. The first two streams were crossed by wading with shoes and stockings off. Daylight saving seemed too important to continue this so stockings were discarded and with only shoes and with trousers rolled as high as they would go streams, ponds, mudholes and rice fields with water varying in depth from ankles to loins were forded and bicycles pushed. Darkness fell while they still had nine miles of dense jungle to pass through. Many people have been killed by tigers in this jungle and the villager whom they had secured to act as guide for some distance refused to go farther than a certain point declaring that tiger tracks as large as a plate had been seen at the edge of the stream nearby the day previous. A little farther on Bro. Troyer stepped on a stone and sprained his ankle very severely. After massaging it for ten minutes he was able to walk on very slowly. Soon they found themselves on the wrong jungle path. They walked on. The road led to a village. From there a man walked with them to a government road on which the bicycles could be ridden more or less for the remaining seven miles to Mahodi. When they emerged from the jungle into the open plain surrounding the Mahodi bungalow they saw that Bro. Smucker's servant had tied a lantern to a pole to guide to the bungalow whoever might be coming from Dhamtari to their relief. As they neared the bungalow they thanked God who answers prayer. They found Sister Smucker better but Bro.

Smucker was still very sick. He had black water fever. (The disease of which Sister Esther Lapp died.) The next two days Bro. Troyer finished his language examinations which he had begun the day he was called to Mahodi during which time Bro. Smucker had gained strength enough to make it possible to try to take him in his car to Dhamtari by the long road of forty-eight miles. The completion of a bridge over a stream the evening before made this possible. The Ford getting stuck in mud to the hubs and prying, pulling, pushing and digging it out were incidentals in that forty-eight mile trip. By 1 o'clock they reached the one-half-mile-wide Mahanadi river five miles from Dhamtari where they were expecting to get a ferry boat to take the car and passengers across the river. Their hearts sank as they saw that the gates of the dam had been lowered and the current was too swift for the ferry to cross. The missionaries at Dhamtari did not know that they were there and there was no way of getting into communication with them from that side of the river. Some one must cross the river, so Bro. Lehman wading where shallow enough and swimming where too deep to wade crossed to the other side of the river, sent a small canoe back to the other side to bring the exhausted patient and a message to Dhamtari to Bro. Miller to come with his car to get the Doctor and Bro. Smucker. At 3 P. M. Miller and Lehman had transferred the necessary supplies to the far side of the river and were on their way to Mahodi in Bro. Smucker's car to bring in his wife and children who reached Dhamtari the next afternoon. All are rapidly improving and again we are reminded of God's mercy and goodness.



## THE STATE OF KANKER.

Area ...	...	...	1431 square miles
No. of towns ...	...	...	1
„ „ villages ...	...	...	534
Total population ...	...	...	124,928

### Education:

No. of boys reading in schools ...	...	...	1358
„ „ girls „ „ „ ...	...	...	266
Expenditure for education per month ...			\$ 443
Percent of population that is literate ...			2.2
No. of villages not in reach of schools ...			At least 400.

### Medical:

No. of dispensaries ...	...	...	2
-------------------------	-----	-----	---

### Religions:

No. of Animists ...	...	...	62,614
„ „ Hindus ...	...	...	61,513
„ „ Mohammedans ...	...	...	694
„ „ Jains ...	...	...	89
„ „ Christians ...	...	...	2
No. of missionaries or native Christian workers ...	...	...	None.



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. IV § Dhamtari, C.P., India, December 1925. § No. 12.

The missionaries extend the season's greetings to all their friends in the Homeland.

In the meeting of the Managing Committee held on the 13th of November it was decided that all the missionaries remain at the posts they now hold for the year 1926 except where adjustments must be made due to missionaries going on furlough. Brother Lehman will take charge of the Girl's School at Balodgahan from January 1st and Sister Troyer will work into the nursing work at the Hospital with the view of taking over the work when Sister Wenger goes on furlough and all her Bible women except two will be transferred to Sister Miller.

Passage has been secured for Mary M. Good and Lois Lapp sailing for America from Calcutta on the S. S. "City of Benares" on January 26th.

On October 24th. Sister Esch returned from Naini Tal with her own and the Friesen children, and on November 22nd. Irene and Waldo Lehman and Harriet Lapp returned from Darjeeling. Carolyn Lehman had returned home a few weeks earlier because of illness. The children all passed in their school examinations. They are happy to be at home and the older ones are busy helping with Christmas preparations which is always such an important time in the Indian Christian Community.

After an absence of five weeks due to the Christian Workers' Normal and illness Brother and Sister Smucker returned to Mahodi on November the 18th.

During the latter part of November Brother Friesen attended the Annual meeting of the **North India Christian Tract and Book Society** held in Allahabad.

Brother Esch spent two weeks in Calcutta taking a course in leprosy treatments given by Dr. Muir the leprosy specialist. The results of the treatments among the lepers here is very encouraging. It is hoped that a number of the children may be placed in the untainted homes soon.

On November 1st. Communion was observed in the Balodgahan congregation. About 365 partook of the sacred emblems. Just previous to the communion twenty persons were received into the Church by baptism. Brother Friesen was in charge of the service.

November 22nd. Communion and baptismal services were held at Sankra. William Friesen and four children from the Christian community were baptised.

On November 15th. the annual Thanks-giving services were held in the churches. The offerings for the Home Mission were good. The largest offering was received in Dhamtari and amounted to Rs. 118/- (thirty-nine dollars). Banana trees, chairs, sickles, rice, chickens etc. were in evidence in the offerings made.

Rice harvest is about over. It would not take a binder very long to cut eighty acres of rice, but with hand sickles it took from thirty to forty persons about one month on the Balodgahan farm to cut that many acres of rice and carry it in and stack it.

The boys in the fourth class of the Orphanage School in Dhamtari have this year planted eight fields of rice as part of their class work. They did all the plowing, leveling, sowing and transplanting incidental to the growing of the crop and are now ready to cut it. The yield promises to be good and the boys are delighted with their work. Similar efforts to teach our people better

ways of working and living are soon to be made in other schools.

The lepers also enjoyed their field work and are happy to have been able to do that much toward their own support. It has been good for them physically and mentally.

A new railway branch is being made from a point about fifteen miles distant from Dhamtari. This will require many laborers. Many of our Christian people at Dhamtari who do not have regular employment hope to live at this place of work temporarily. This presents a problem in caring for our Christian people. It will likely be necessary to send some Indian brother to the camp to be a shepherd for them while there.

It has been the custom for many years for the missionaries in each of the stations to meet together for prayer on Monday evenings. Recently the missionaries living at the nearest stations, Dhamtari, Shantipur and Balodgahan, have begun to meet together twice each month on these evenings for united intercession for the work. The meetings are proving an inspiration and blessing.

### SUBJECTS for INTERCESSION.

1. That a spirit of voluntary evangelism may become imbued in the hearts of our Christian community.
2. That arrangements may be made whereby much more time and attention may be given to the pastoral care of the congregation at Dhamtari.
3. For those who have recently been received into the Church.
4. That the missionaries at Mahodi may speedily regain their physical strength.
5. That the preaching of the Gospel in the villages during the present cool season when a number of the missionaries and Indian workers will be on tour may bring many to Christ.

## A VISION OF INDIA.

Yea, at the end of pregnant strife,  
    Enthroned as guru of the earth,  
    This land of Hind shall teach the worth  
Of Christian faith and Christian life.

In sooth her name, in letters bright,  
    Before all other names, I trow,  
    Is writ, Lord Christ, upon Thy brow;  
And her to serve is my delight.

When shall these longings be sufficed  
    That stir my spirit night and day?  
    When shall I see my country lay  
Her homage at the feet of Christ?—

Yea, how behold that blissful day  
    When all her prophets' mystic lore  
    And all her ancient wisdom's store  
Shall own His consummating sway?

Now soul and body, mind and will,  
    Honour and name, my wealth, my all,  
    Brethren and kindred, great and small,  
I yield, Thy purpose to fulfil.

Of all I have, O Saviour sweet,—  
    All gifts, all skill, all thoughts of mine,—  
    A living garland I entwine,  
And offer at thy lotus feet.

Narayan Vaman Tilak (1862—1919.)

The Christian Poet,  
of Western India.