

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, January 1927. § No. 1.

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A number of very important meetings were held during the month just past. These were the Annual Business Meetings of the Mission, The Annual Jalsa or Bible Conference and the Annual Church Conference, besides the special Christmas services and meetings which were conducted at all the stations. Space will not permit anything but the briefest mention of the work in connection with these meetings.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Mission, now meeting in the early part of December, was helpful and inspiring. All the missionaries were present. The first day was devoted to the presentation and discussion of subjects of a specially spiritual and evangelical nature which formed a fine basis for the more or less secular and business part of the program which followed. The following subjects were discussed:

1. How may we become Intercessory Missionaries ?
2. The Holy Spirit in Missions.
3. The Indoctrination of the Indian Church.

Suitable resolutions were drawn up on each of the above subjects. Those on the first subject above appear on page four of this leaflet.

We print below the resolution regarding literature passed at this Business Meeting:

“Whereas we feel that there exists among our Indian people a crying need for more and better Christian

literature in the vernacular and, Whereas, the preparation and publication of manuscripts is expensive in both time and money, therefore, be it

Resolved: that we favor the creation of a Literature Fund of \$500.00 to be solicited from which the expenses of pandit hire (capable Indians to help in translation work) printing and publishing advances and similar expenses be drawn".

Who is there in the home land who will help us in the creation of such a fund? The urgency of this resolution can not be over emphasized.

Christmas services were conducted at all the stations. These services brought joy to Indians and missionaries alike. New clothing provided by the sewing circles of America were much appreciated by those in the charitable institutions. Only the widows were disappointed for the clothing intended for them provided by the eastern Pennsylvania sewing circles did not arrive in time for distribution for Christmas.

Many non-Christians attend the Christmas services. The total attendance at the stations where are large churches is always large. Mohadi and Ghatula have small Christian communities but the total attendance at both places was good. There were about 150 present at the latter place and about 175 at the former. At Mohadi four young souls rose in the Christmas morning service expressing their desire to become Christians. At the communion service held at Mohadi Paul Kaufman was baptised.

A note from Sankra states that the Sunday Schools gave their Christmas program on Christmas eve. Christmas Day was spent in services and visiting. The

teachers and Christian workers spent a big part of the afternoon feeding the poor of the congregation.

The annual Jalsa which lasted for three days was attended by about seven hundred people. Bro. Lapp and Bro. Shaw were the principal speakers. Their messages were inspiring and heart searching, illuminating the Jalsa text, "For the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many."

The Annual Church Conference convened on the last day of the old year with nearly all of the more than sixty members present. Great interest was manifested. A few of the important things done are given below:

Several changes in our Constitution and Discipline were considered necessary and since this work must be carefully done a large committee was appointed consisting of all the ordained brethren (Indian and missionary) and two representatives from each congregation which shall form a revision committee. This committee is to report at the next annual conference.

There was manifested on the part of our Indian Christian leaders a strong desire to assume more administrative responsibilities in connection with the spreading of the Gospel. With the view of finding out the best way in which this can be brought about a committee was appointed to study the problem for a year and report at the next conference.

The Home Mission Committee was enlarged and made more representative in order to cope with the increasing responsibilities of the committee. For the first time in the history of the conference the chairman of the Home Mission Committee is an Indian brother.

### Resolutions regarding Intercession.

Resolved; That we gratefully acknowledge the interest and prayer of those in the homeland as well as our Indian brethren and sisters who continually remember us in prayers. Their prayers have been and are being answered in changes in our own lives and in the growth of the work in India.

2. That we give ourselves more fully to intercession in behalf of those whom we have been endeavoring to win for Christ.

a. That they might accept Christ as their Savior.

b. That they in turn might become soul winners.

3. That we give ourselves more fully to intercession for ourselves that we may know our people better and enter more intelligently and sympathetically into their lives and bring Christ to them.

4. That in the stress and strain of our labor we give ourselves more fully to take more time for intercession taking more time in preparing to practice the presence of God and thus realize more and more what a powerful weapon prayer is in bringing about God's great purpose for the salvation of the lost in India.

5. That we give ourselves for intercession for the following and any other burdens which come to us.

a. That God make us worthy of this great ministry.

b. That God make our church worthy of a larger and greater service.

c. That our Indian church become a greater power.

d. That our weak members be freed from error and superstition.

e. That those whom we consider stronger might realize their duty more fully and serve God and their fellow men more faithfully.

f. That the near future might clear up the problems concerning an Indian ministry.

g. That all evangelists and Bible women might more fully realize their personal responsibility as soul winners.

h. That God would help us to search ourselves and know wherein might be hindrances to the cause and that they might be removed.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, February 1927. § No. 2.

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This is the Mohadi special number. If it proves satisfactory other station special numbers may appear throughout the year.

Mohadi is designated as a purely evangelistic station. That is, no institutions are located here. This enables the workers at this station to put their entire time into direct evangelistic work.

The number of Indian workers at this station is small—only two evangelists and three Bible women. Another evangelist and Bible woman are soon to be added to the staff of workers here.

The workers visit more than twenty villages in the course of a month's work. Each village in the district thus receives only one visit from our evangelists in a month. The Bible women do not go as far as the men hence they visit the nearby villages more frequently. There are some twenty villages which can be visited from this station without travelling more than five miles in any direction. The population of these villages is from 100 to 1000 people.

The Christian community is small, there being but thirty communicant members and four applicants for baptism. Some of these Christians are the children of parents here who attend school at Dhamtari and Balodgahan.



Regular church services are held twice every Sunday. Prayer meeting is held every Wednesday afternoon. A Sunday School is conducted at the station and three village Sunday Schools in addition, the total attendance being around a hundred every week.

The Christian people who make their home here live in very cramped quarters. Most of them live on a plot of ground 48 feet by 90 feet. At least twenty-seven people live on this plot. Plans have been made to purchase more land in order to provide a place for laying out a small Christian village and for space on which to build our much needed church, an evangelists house and a dispensary. We have the money for the church and evangelists house and some money towards the dispensary. What we need at once is about two hundred and fifty dollars for the six acres of land needed. There are four acres in the bungalow plot.

The little railway from Charmuria to Parasgaon which runs right past the Mohadi bungalow is busy transporting sleepers (railroad ties) from the jungle to the market. Ordinarily two trains are sent daily each bringing a load of five hundred sleepers. The tracks are only two feet apart and the engines are small but very powerful.

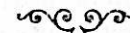
A man was recently sent here to take charge of the Mohadi railroad station. He is our first station master—a Christian from Calcutta.

The Mohadi station well which is already forty feet deep has given out, there being only about a foot of water in it and four and a half months before we can expect rain! The bottom of the well is hard rock which will have to be blasted. It is estimated that five

or six feet will bring us through the rock to the sand which would insure a plentiful supply of water. It is hoped that this work may be done during the coming hot season.

The missionaries of this station and three of the Indian workers spent nearly two weeks on tour among the villages east of Mohadi. Fifteen villages were visited in which the gospel was preached to a large number of people. An effort was made to sell scripture portions and other books to the people and while the number sold was not large—112 books—yet it is hoped that the messages conveyed in the books will accomplish much for the furtherance of the cause of Christ.

The people at Gariaband were especially interested listeners. They wanted the story to be told of Christ and His love. The sister of the ruler of the state possesses a Bible and reads it regularly. She testified that the portions of the gospels that tell of the death of Christ and his triumph over death in coming to life again impress her most. How we long that she be brought to a triumphant faith in Christ! We are praying for her and others and for permission to enter the native state for permanent mission work. Will you pray with us?



## Notes from other Stations.

Sankra reports that a number of the Indian brethren have been out on tour most of the past month. They report interesting meetings but have found small-pox in most of the villages visited.

Construction work is in progress at Sankra. A new dispensary is in process of building and work is proceeding on the bungalow which is being remodeled.

A clinic is being conducted at Pairi, a village some fifteen or twenty miles from Sankra. Every Wednesday upwards of sixty patients come to this clinic for medical help. Most of the patients are lepers. Many of them are much improved.

Recently a very interesting and profitable Sunday School Institute was conducted at Dhamtari with about eighty people in attendance. Those present were mostly leaders in Sunday School work. Lectures on methods of teaching were given for three days.

The new missionaries are busily engaged studying the Hindi language. They are making excellent progress though they are finding some of the sounds very difficult to reproduce.

The four missionaries who came last year recently had the privilege of learning the results of their efforts at their first year's examination. They did very well. One of them stood at the head of the list and another stood second in the list of 29 successful candidates appearing from the Hindi and Urdu language areas.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, March 1927. § No. 3.

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This number of the India Mission News is a month late but the subject matter is of such a nature that it will remain current for some time to come.

The Mission is ever seeking to make its work more effective. If certain ways of doing things do not bring adequate results we try to find the reason and try to improve if possible.

The burning problem at present is how to make our evangelistic work more effective. Not one of us is satisfied with the results of our evangelistic work whether conducted by missionaries or by Indian workers. There are few conversions and there is very little opposition on the part of non-Christians neither of which is very reassuring.

Some time during the year 1921 a letter was written home from which I quote the following: "The number of baptisms this year was 331—three more than last year." That means that in two years we baptised 659 people. True, there were circumstances then that do not obtain now. The large numbers of famine children and others admitted into our Charitable Institutions who were being taught the great truths of the Gospel were ripe for admission into the church and were accordingly received when they requested baptism. Naturally there is a lull now but may not this lull be partly due to removable causes? The Mission is seeking to discover if this is the case.

One constructive plan on which the Mission is working is the correlation of the village schools with the district evangelistic work. Hitherto these two forms of work have been conducted on separate lines each being expected to make its own evangelistic appeal in the community. We are not prepared to say that this method was a mistake for much good has already been accomplished and even more could have been accomplished, it is believed, if there could have been closer supervision.

In trying to analyze the situation the conclusion was reached that of the two types of evangelistic workers, that is, the Christian school teacher and the itinerant evangelistic worker, the former has the advantage over the latter in that he is able to maintain a very close contact not only with the pupils who come to school but with the patrons in the school community. His daily teaching both secular and Bible emphasised by his life and example give him opportunities for Christian leadership in the community to the full of his heart's desire. There is continuity of teaching and appeal that enables him to fit his message to all ages of the child and through the child to the parent.

The evangelists and Bible women on the other hand have no such point of contact. They make regular but infrequent visits to a particular village—say, once or twice a month, according to the extent of the territory to be covered. They teach those who may come to the meetings since attendance is entirely voluntary. Sometimes their audiences are encouragingly large. Other times there are but few. There are often those who give them the cold shoulder. To follow up a special line of teaching is impossible for the audiences are not the same from meeting to meeting. Even during the progress of a single meeting people come and go so that at the close of a meeting there may be an entirely different audience from the one present when the preacher began. The evangelist is at a disadvantage for he has no real point of contact.

The problem is how to co-ordinate these two forms of Christian work in order to give both the best possible advantages in the great task of presenting the Christian message. Formerly all our village schools were administered through the educational department of the Mission. About a year ago the village schools were placed under the head of evangelistic work where in our opinion they properly belong. One missionary is in charge of most of these village schools and emphasis is placed on the evangelistic phase of the work of the teachers and the schools are more unified for the purpose of working out this ideal. Men who are not genuinely interested in the evangelistic work of the schools will not conscientiously be employed as teachers in these schools. The better

type of training demanded on the part of the teacher will also qualify him for better evangelistic work.

We have for many years conducted so called normals for our evangelists and Bible women based on constructive reading courses provided for them. With the co-ordination as above outlined both teachers and evangelists will be required to attend the same normal and will also be thrown together in other ways which will be a great help to both. In other ways the plan has its advantages. For many years we have had men and women on our evangelistic force whose intellectual qualifications were very meager. We believe that soundly converted men and women may be and often are mightily used of God in the spreading of the Gospel but we also believe that those same men or women can be used still more effectively if they have at least some intellectual training. Just as there will be no place for the teacher who has no evangelistic interests so there will be no place for the would be worker who is not able to teach a class in a village school unless for special reasons such a person can be effectively used. In other words every Christian worker will have some special project to work out in the community in which he lives and in undertaking such a task his abilities will be put to a genuine test. Anything short of absolute consecration to his work and prodigious industry while in the work will soon show up the worker in his true light.

In connection with the problem of making our evangelistic workers more efficient the missionaries recently discussed the wisdom or otherwise of placing into the hands of village teachers and preachers certain simple medicines for dispensing purposes in the places where they are located. Many people are found in the villages who suffer from such common ailments as colds, coughs, fevers, itch, etc. who could be relieved of much needless suffering and pain if only there were some one at hand to dispense the simple remedies required in an intelligent manner. Arguments in favor of placing medicines in the hands of the workers brought out the fact that evangelists must have a point of contact with the people and that therefore this is a legitimate undertaking. Arguments opposed to the idea stressed the point that the remedies may not be properly applied or that there might be

other irregularities in the dispensing of medicines thus causing more harm than good. The conclusion was reached that with proper instruction and careful supervision certain medicines may with great profit be placed in certain centers to be dispensed daily by the Christian worker located there. Either a missionary doctor or, if not available, a lay missionary would follow up this daily dispensing of medicine with a weekly clinic treating the more serious cases of illness and making an effort to bring to the Mission hospital such cases that need prolonged treatment under the daily care of the medical authorities at the hospital. Not only will this mean much for the relief of suffering humanity but it will very materially extend the influence of the consecrated Christian worker and open up to him avenues of usefulness that would not otherwise be available.

A final word must be said with reference to the training of our Christian workers. We have at various times described our Bible Training School which is located at Ghatula. This Bible school has been in operation in the Mission for many years. More recently a Normal Training School was opened by the Mission for the purpose of giving our school teachers better training for their tasks. Correlating the work of the village schools and the district evangelistic work will also mean the coordinating of the work in these two training schools giving the school teacher the necessary Bible training and the other Christian workers the necessary normal training. This should raise the efficiency of all our Christian workers and eventually the general evangelistic work of the Mission.

#### **WILL YOU PRAY.**

1. That all our evangelists and Bible women might be thoroughly consecrated to the work of the Lord?
2. That our village schools conducted for non-Christians might be strong evangelistic centers?
3. That the proposed weekly medical clinics in suitable centers of our mission field might open avenues of further usefulness for our missionaries and Indian co-workers?
4. That our training schools—the Bible School and the Normal Training School—might be greatly used of God in the extension of His Kingdom?



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, April 1927. § No. 4.

The hot winds are blowing. There is no mistaking. The hot season is upon us. Already the thermometer is soaring and this is only the beginning.

The stations, Shantipur and Ghatula, are temporarily vacated so far as missionary occupants are concerned. The missionary families at both these stations have gone to the hills—the former to Mussoorie and the latter to Darjeeling. Bro. Lapp of Ghatula is making a short trip through South India in the interests of evangelism prior to landing in Darjeeling.

The school children have left for their respective schools in the Himalayas. Three Friesen children, five Esch children and Paul Kaufman attend Woodstock School at Mussoorie while three Lehman children, two Troyer children and Harriet Lapp attend Queen's Hill School at Darjeeling. Our homes are quiet and lonely with the children gone.

Our Budget Committee has again prepared the annual budget for 1927-1928. In consideration of the fact that there is an ever increasing demand for expansion on every side and on account of a natural increase in administrative expense due to the coming of new missionaries a slight increase over the present budget has been asked for. Whether or not the Mission Board will grant us this very necessary increase will depend on you, dear reader. One extra cent a month for every brother and sister in the church will more than provide for the increase asked for.

The Mission is making definite plans to open another new main station in the near future. A special committee is prospecting for an exact location. The arrival of new recruits on the fields makes this possible.



**Sankra Notes.**

In the beginning of the month the evangelistic work in the district was hindered on account of the rain but for the last two weeks the men are out on tour again. They report good interest and unusually good book sales.

The work on the new dispensary and the repair of the bungalow are progressing. All going well we hope soon to have a new roof on the bungalow.

William, John, and Edward (Friesen) left with the Dhamtari school party for Landour (Mussoorie) where they will attend school in Woodstock for the coming nine months.

**Dhamtari Notes.**

Two Hindu boys were admitted into the Boys' Orphanage about two years ago because their fathers desired for them the training which is given by the Mission in preference to that given by Government schools. These boys now want to be baptised and received into the Church.

In order to train our boys in primary schools to be able to work on the land after leaving school the boys of the highest class were given some fields of rice to cultivate. They did all the work incidental to raising eight fields of rice this year. We hope this will enable them to increase the effectiveness of their effort in giving the Gospel to their non-Christian relatives later by doing some practical work for them.

The Mission has decided to open a separate host for the boys of the High School beginning with the new school year in July. Up until now they and the Middle School boys have occupied the same dormitory.

On March 6th communion services were held at the Sundarganj church. Nearly three hundred partook of the sacred emblems. At the same time a class of seventeen boys and two girls were baptised and received into church fellowship. Bishop C. D. Esch officiated in these services.

Death came suddenly into the home of Brother Tijau, a carpenter, when his eleven months' old boy died on March 14th after an illness of less than a day.

The Inspector of Industrial Schools of the Central Provinces and Berar, Mr. Claridge, visited the Carpentry School on the 21st of March. He gave the annual examinations to the boys studying in the school.

Recently a room outside the regular school building has been equipped for making more effective the Bible teaching of the Middle School. This separate room for Bible teaching helps to impress the fact that Bible study is not an ordinary routine subject in the curriculum. Because of its segregation from other classes in progress it makes possible the singing and learning of Christian songs as part of Bible instruction.

**Medical Station Notes.**

Born to Bro. and sister Miller, March 24th a ten pound boy.

Mark Allen Kniss was born at the European ward on Feb. 26th. He weighed nine and a half pounds.

Our new evangelist's house is completed.

A well-to-do zenana woman from a village fifteen miles from here is occupying the surgical ward with her little nephew who had his leg broken about a month ago. The woman greatly enjoys the companionship of the missionary sisters and begs for them to come and sit for hours to talk with her.

Parsu, a man who came to the hospital last year and who at that time had his right foot amputated, is back again in the hospital for a second operation. His left foot had to be amputated. He is of such a cheerful disposition that it grieves us to see him suffer. He daily hears the Word of God and we long that he might be saved. Pray for him and the many others who daily come seeking healing for their bodies that they also may find rest and peace for their souls.

### **Mahodi Notes.**

Several short tours were made in the course of the past month in the interest of evangelistic work. The reception in the villages was very cordial. The sun is now getting too hot to be out in tents.

Several epidemics have made their appearance through these parts. Whooping cough and mumps are troubling some of the children in our Christian community while small pox and cholera are reported in some of the outlying villages.

Kathryn Kaufman was taken by her mother to the Presbyterian Mission Hospital in Western India at Miraj in charge of Dr. Wanless. She has had exzema in chronic form for three years and treatment by skin specialists and other doctors seemed not to bring the desired results. Dr. Wanless is fully equipped with electrical apparatus for giving the ultra violet ray treatment (Alpine lamp) and it was for the purpose of receiving this treatment that Kathryn was taken. Daily treatments from twenty to forty minutes each for a month finally bring great hopes to her parents. The doctor considers the application of the violet ray a success. This will bring much joy to the many people who have made enquiries regarding her condition.

### **SUBJECTS FOR INTERCESSION.**

1. That our children now in the hills far away from their homes might enjoy the protection of our Heavenly Father.
2. That the new missionaries might be guided in the study of the language in preparation for service in this land.
3. That our Christian communities might ever look to Christ as their Savior and guide.
4. That the pastors of congregations might have heavenly wisdom and guidance in their grave responsibilities.
5. That the children of our Christian people might be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, May 1927. § No. 5.

Religious festivals are common to the people of India. Mohammedan people observe, among others, Bakra-Id and Mohorrum. Hindus celebrate their Holi and their Diwali and their Maghipuni. Christians observe Christmas and Good Friday and Easter.

A local festival observed among the Hindus recently was the Jewara festival. It continued for about a week. There was sprouted grain over which lights were waved by the priests. There were dances and drummings and playing of fifes when the sprouted grain was carried on the heads of women at the head of processions. There was the *tirshul* ceremony coming well at the close of the festival. The *tirshul* is an instrument of iron of special design. This instrument, slightly thinner than a lead pencil, is thrust through the tongue of one or more who have been "called" to volunteer. While they hold this instrument with one hand they dance and beat themselves with other sharp instruments.

Hindus also have their religious pilgrimages. Hundreds of thousands bathe annually in the sacred river Ganges at Benares and worship in the numerous temples that line the river. The Kumbh mela held at Hardwar in the United Provinces occurs once in twelve years. It occurs when the planet Jupiter is in the sign Aquarius. It was held this year and has just come to a close. The great object of attraction is the bathing ghat called "Vishnu's Footprint." Pilgrims struggle to be first to plunge into the sacred Ganges on great occasions. The Statesman of Calcutta states that in the wild rush for the honor of being first to bathe in the Ganges fifty-five persons, mostly women, were crushed to death on the morning of April 13th.

About the time of the great Hindu mela at Hardwar we were observing two of the great Christian festivals—Good Friday and Easter—the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord. Quietness, dignity, and solemnity characterized the meetings at the various stations on Good Friday. Emphasis was again placed on the sacrificial death, on the Cross, of Christ Who became the Saviour of the world—your Saviour and mine. Easter Sunday morning was a morning of gladness and rejoicing for it again reminded us of the great triumph over death, hell and the grave.

### **Sankra Notes.**

Three of the workers at this place who had been on tour during the last month returned with the report that the people in the Panabaras Zamindari gave them a very warm welcome. They sold a large number of books and found caste prejudice much less than in the immediate Sankra district.

The work on the bungalow has proceeded to the extent that about one third of it is again under roof.

Sister Friesen and the two smaller children left for the hills on the 13th of April.

### **Shantipur Notes.**

At the Good Friday morning service for the lepers twenty-one lepers were received into church fellowship by water baptism. Some of these lepers were badly afflicted. As one looked at them, so broken in body and utterly useless as far as this world is concerned, one was made to think that this was not a promising offering to bring to the Saviour Who paid such a great price on this day to redeem the world. Yet it is for these, too, that He died and He is able to take them and make them fit subjects for His kingdom and members of His house-hold. That is one of the triumphs of grace. Pray for these poor ignorant people that they may be true followers of the Lord Jesus whom they have learned to know and love.

On Easter Sunday afternoon we held a very impressive communion service. The service was very quiet. Those who could not attend were served in their rooms. Bro. Friesen was present and had charge of the service.

The leper women are busy hulling the rice they raised last rainy season. It is rather hard work but they seem to enjoy it. It is good for both their health and their morals to have something to do.

One of our new inmates is a young Brahmin sent here from the Sanskrit school at Dhamtari. He is a promising case. Pray that he may find the remedy for sin as well as the remedy for leprosy.

On Easter Sunday morning communion services were held with the small congregation at Maradeo. Twelve members were present. At this service the mother of Parsadi, the deacon here, was baptised. She gave a good testimony and was won through the efforts and good testimony of her son.

### **Ghatula Notes.**

Brother and Sister Lapp who had been in Darjeeling for a month returned to Ghatula for a few days before leaving again to take over the work at Balodgahan for the remainder of the hot season.

Brick and tile are being made to be used in remodeling

a building for use as a girls' dormitory in connection with the Bible School.

The annual examination in the mission primary school turned out very satisfactory. The village people are more satisfied with the school than formerly and, besides, urge the opening of a middle school.

Several Indian brethren again rented the church fields for the current farm year the amount of the rent being about twelve dollars.

A leper clinic has been opened at Ghatula. Lepers coming to this clinic will be given the new treatment.

### **Balodgahan Notes.**

Brother and Sister Brunk left for the hills on the 18th April accompanied by Brother and Sister Beare and family though bound for different hill stations. The former go to Kashmir and the latter to Mussoorie. Sister Kanagy left for the hills a week later. Bro. Lapps of Ghatula took over the work at Balodgahan in the absence of the Brunks.

Some of the evangelists and teachers are planning a volunteer evangelistic tour among villages during part of the severe hot weather.

Communion was observed on the 3rd April with Brother Friesen in charge. Twenty souls were received into church fellowship by baptism.

Special meetings were held on Good Friday and Easter much encouraging the congregation.

Since Feb. 23, eight of our girls of the Orphanage were married and are now living in homes of their own. We trust they will be real lights to their non-Christian neighbors and friends.

School vacation has taken a number of girls to their homes for two months. The 160 girls left in the Orphanage will require much attention because of the fact that they are not in school.

### **Mohadi Notes.**

One new family of Christian workers was added to the force of workers here. They came about the middle of April.

An evangelist's house is being built. When completed it will help to relieve the overcrowded condition in our Christian community.

Special services were held on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday. These services were well attended and helpful. Emphasis was again placed on that great sacrificial death which redeemed fallen man, and on the triumph over death in the resurrection of Christ wherein lies the hope of the Christian.

Sister Kaufman and Kathryn left for the hills on April 13th.



## Ordination of an Indian Minister.

We had been hoping, working and praying for it for many years and it has happened, namely, the ordination of an Indian brother to the ministry. It marks a distinct step in the progress and growth of the Mennonite Church in India. It is milestone which adds new faith to believing missionaries and brings new confidence to a Church struggling to find its place among the Churches of the Kingdom of Christ on Earth. It is therefore a joy shared by us all and one for which our hearts naturally turn to a kind Heavenly Father in gratitude and thanksgiving.

At the last Annual Church Conference, in answer to a petition, permission was granted to the Sunderganj Congregation to ordain an Indian brother to the ministry. After obtaining the permission the Church at first was reticent, fearing that perhaps after all the venture was too great and should not be undertaken. The Spirit however was at work and it was decided that as the Lord leads He will also strengthen. On Sunday April 24th Brother Isabukhsh was chosen. It had been arranged to have the ordination ceremony a week later and so on May 1st our brother was ordained to the Ministry by the Bishops Esch & Friesen. It was an occasion which will long be remembered by all those present. In the evening a number of leading brethren of the Church met at the house of Brother Prabhudas in a special meeting of thanksgiving for as one of those present expressed it, it would not be fitting not to remember to thank the Lord for having granted us something for which we had so long prayed.

Brother Isabukhsh was raised in our Boys Orphanage, having come there with his brother in 1901. He served for one and half years as a village school teacher, for 3 years he acted as house-father of the Boys Orphanage and at present he is employed in our English School as a clerk and as a teacher of the Bible classes in the Middle department. He has finished his high school course and has an unusually good knowledge of English. This has been a great help to him in his Bible teaching and will be great help to him in his ministry as it makes available to him so many English helps. He has a family of 4 sons and one daughter. He is 34 years old. He feels called to this work and believes the Lord will help in the many difficulties that are sure to come. He requests the support of your prayers.

E. E. MILLER.

*J. Koffman  
Makodi*

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, June 1927. § No. 6.

Escape to the hills during the hot season in India is not to be confused with the American Idea of a season at Atlantic City or at Hollywood-by-the-Sea or at some other summer resort. There is no comparison. It is only remotely to be compared with the practice of many Mennonites of means to repair to the more congenial climate of the South in order to escape the rigors of the long northern winters.

Long experience in India has convinced not only our mission but all others that missionary economy demands the maintenance of vigorous health among the missionary workers. The climate of the plains from the middle of April to the middle of September is extremely trying in spite of the fact that the monsoons break about the middle of June. During this period in spite of all he can do the missionary who remains on the plains maintains a losing fight with the heat of the hot season and the humidity of the early part of the rainy season.

The present hot season is again a strong reminder of this struggle. For two months the thermometer maintains a temperature of 90 to 112 and even 115 in the shade. The temperature does not drop below 90 even at night. During the heat of the day it registers 106 to 115. Retiring time still shows 106 as late as ten o'clock P. M. During the day the bungalow absorbs the terrific heat of the sun only to radiate much of that heat at night. Even with the great heat one could manage if a good nights rest could always be assured. But the present hot season has proved that an assured nights rest is a myth. We sleep out doors as sleep indoors would be all but impossible. So far so good. But the heat permits only of snatches of sleep. We wake up in a perspiration. Then a storm threatens. A few drops of rain fall. We are driven from out of doors to the verandah of the bungalow carrying our beds as we go. The threatened storm passes over in an hour or two or has spent its force. The beds are carried back outside again. The morning comes and with it a physical depression that is hard for the reader to imagine. With such a physical condition we try to brave another hot day with the thermometer soaring from 112 to 115.

Escape to the hills during the hot season means escape from these conditions for a period of a month or two. Missionary effort is more fruitful and efficient as a result. It is therefore not a senseless luxury to be indulged in but a serious necessity to be carried out, this matter of going to the hills.

### Shantipur Notes.

This being a very dry hot season it is quite a problem to get water enough for the nearly two hundred inmates of the Leper Home. We



have dug a new well, twenty-one feet square, for the use of the women. This is furnishing sufficient water for them now. The other wells are being deepened to avoid water problems in the future.

Many new and promising cases of leprosy are coming for treatment. Those who have been under treatment for some time are all receiving marked benefit.

The health of the inmates of the Home is much better this year than it usually is at this time. This is in part due to the fact that the lepers get more exercise in the work assigned to them and partly due to the special treatments they are receiving.

In the absence of Dr. Troyer who has gone to the hills, Dr. Esch is attending to the work in the Mission Hospital at Dhamtari. Three or four mornings a week are spent there. Only urgent cases are attended to as the nurse, Sister Hartzler, is also at the hills.

#### **Maradeo Notes.**

On Sunday morning, May 15th, two promising young folks were baptised. They come from a Christian family. We are glad for this additional number to the small membership at this place.

The Christian workers' house is now finished. It makes a very satisfactory home for the workers who live in it. The money for this home was donated by the young people of Goshen College.

#### **Dhamtari Notes.**

Several of the High School boys are spending a part of their vacation with Brother Ezekiel at the Home Mission station. They report good interest in their campaign in the villages around Mogragahan.

Sister Miller and children were intending to remain on the plains during the hot season, but on account of Thelma's health not being so good the doctor advised them to go to the hills. They have therefore joined the missionaries at Darjeeling where they will remain until the coming of the rains.

A survey is now being made for the extension of the railway line from Dhamtari to Kanker. This will mean forty miles more of railway right through the centre of our mission field. The road will hardly be completed under three years. The survey is in charge of a European engineer.

#### **Balodgahan Notes.**

There is a scarcity of water in the villages because of so many wells going dry. An old well is being cleaned and repaired and it is hoped this will help out.

The widows had a week's vacation from work but were not allowed to visit in other villages because of the prevalence of smallpox. There has been only one case in Balodgahan so far.

Farmers are hauling manure on their fields in preparation for seeding their fields in the beginning of the rains. They are also repairing the banks of earth around the field so they will hold sufficient water.

One Christian young man left his family and fled to another village refusing to return to his family. His brother's father-in-law, a Hindu is trying to induce him to again become a Hindu and take as his wife the daughter of the home who is a "grass" widow. There are many matrimonial complications to deal with in this country.

#### **Ghatula Notes.**

In the temporary absence of Bro. Lapp at Balodgahan Bro. Mukut the deacon of the congregation, is in direct charge of the work assisted by the church committee.

Some building work is going on and a dormitory is being prepared to accommodate single young women who will attend the Bible School.

The average temperature has been lower here than in the other stations due to proximity to the jungle and a slightly higher altitude.

#### **Sankra Notes.**

Bro. Friesen left for Landour in the hills on May 16th. Bro. Lapp is looking after the station in his absence.

The remodelled bungalow is under roof. There is still some plastering to be done while the tile have not all been laid over the corrugated iron on the roof. The repaired and remodelled bungalow, when completed, will be roomy, rain proof and generally very satisfactory.

#### **Mohadi Notes.**

The young people from this congregation who attend school at Dhamtari and Balodgahan are spending their vacation here. There are ten boys and five girls. It is very encouraging to have them back for two months and see them take active part in the church and Sunday school services. They enjoy doing special singing in the services, as well as leading in the prayer meetings on Wednesday of each week.

"I arrived crying. Send me away laughing," is what the woman with bad scrofulous sores of three years standing said one morning when her sores were being dressed. The case is a very difficult one. She came from village about twenty miles in the jungle accompanied by her son, one brother, and two servants.



## Subjects for Intercession.

1. Pray for Brother Isabukhsh who has recently been ordained to the ministry. He is the first Indian ordained minister of the Mennonite Church. Pray for his family. The coming months and years will demand much from this family.

2. Pray for the children of the missionaries who are attending school in the hills. The Lehman and Troyer children and Harriet Lapp are at Darjeeling. The Esch and Friesen children and Paul Kaufman are at Landour. Fifteen children in all besides three others who attend kindergarten classes during part time. Many temptations incidental to school life away from home come to these children and they need your prayers.

3. Pray for the Bible School which opens again the first of July for the annual six months term. For the first time in its history it is opening its doors to single women a number of whom will attend this year. A considerable number of students are coming from a neighboring mission. The total enrollment will be more than thirty. The teaching staff will be confronted with a big responsibility. Will you remember both teachers and students in your devotions.

4. Our station schools—seven in all—reopen the latter part of June after a two months' vacation. Pray for these schools. They have their problems—financial, administrative and supervisory as well as problems of competent teaching staffs. These seven schools directly concern more than six hundred students besides indirectly touching the lives of many more.

5. Pray for the new missionaries who, in common with all new missionaries, are undergoing severe struggles incidental to their becoming adjusted to conditions still so strange to them.

440

Mr Kauffman

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, July 1927. § No. 7.

The rainy season began in earnest. The first rains came on the fifteenth of June introduced by a very severe storm which made havoc of insecurely fastened roofs exposing the interiors of buildings to the torrential rains which followed. The initial cloud burst was followed by hard steady rain transforming the erstwhile dry, hardbaked plains to a scene not unlike great stretches of lake. In forty-eight hours deep wells which were without water were half filled. Farmers can think and talk and do nothing but rice planting and the fields for unmeasured distances are dotted with thousands upon thousands of men and draft oxen scratching the surface of the fields with their crude plows in preparation for the new sowing.

About ten o'clock P. M. on June 3rd occurred what was unique in the experience of most of us. The occurrence was a fairly severe earthquake shock which lasted about one minute. Those within buildings were frightened by the very unusual noise and the uncanny vibration and the creaking of the roof. One's position on the floor seemed to shift which gave one a very strange feeling. No damage was done in this part of India but in other sections one hears of slight damage to buildings and even of fatalities.

The Medical Station of the Mission was in need of more land for very necessary expansion and we were fortunate in securing about nine and a half acres of land adjoining the Medical Station on the east. The total cost of the land is just about five hundred dollars which is covered by the proceeds of the land near Dhamtari formerly purchased for the Medical Station when it was thought to move the Medical work nearer the city. The land is still owned by the Mission but other Mission departments were charged for the land thus releasing the Medical Station money for the purchase above mentioned.

Huge swarms of locusts visited India during the past month. They have been reported practically all over India. When seen here they were travelling from the east returning again in about two weeks. How far west they travelled or where they finally went would be interesting to know. They flew high in dense clouds with great speed. There were unnumbered billions of them. Where they landed and found trees suited to their taste they left them leafless.

The missionaries who went to the hills have all returned to their stations after a suitable rest and change. They are putting renewed vigor into their work now that they were able to take their minds of the work for awhile.

The news that new missionaries are appointed to come to India this fall is cheering, indeed. The building of a new evangelistic station will be begun shortly and new territory will thus be reached with the Gospel message.

**Notes from Dhamtari.**

A bad epidemic of cholera is raging in Dhamtari just now. Every possible precaution is being taken to prevent the disease from spreading to the Christian Community. Several years ago this disease got into the Orphanage and several little boys died. This is a dreadful disease and we need the prayers of God's people to help in caring for those entrusted to us at this time.

Bro. Miller was suddenly called to Darjeeling because Sister Miller, who had gone to the hills for the latter part of the hot season, was stricken with diphtheria. This was a time of great anxiety for us all and particularly for Bro. Miller who had to undergo a forty-eight hour railway journey before he could reach her. Dr. Troyer who was at Darjeeling promptly inoculated Sister Miller and the children and we are glad to state that by this time she is almost well and no others have contracted the disease.

Bro. Isa Bakhsh, our first Indian minister, solemnized his first marriage on the 17th June. To see our Indian brethren assuming responsibilities formerly undertaken only by missionaries is very cheering.

**Medical Station Notes.**

Dr. Esch attended the hospital at Dhamtari in the absence of Dr. Troyer at the hills. There is usually a very large attendance at the hospital the four mornings a week when the doctor is there.

An elderly man came to the hospital some days ago from Kanker suffering with cataract of both eyes. He went home a few days later happy in being able to see again.

Many people suffered from the effects of severe heat during the latter part of the hot season. Hindus do not believe in giving water to one who is suffering and this only increases their distress. We believe that lives might have been spared had they been given plenty of cool water and occasional bath. When asked about a sick child which was suffering from the heat with a low, persistent fever, the father, who is one of our best educated Christians, told me the child had not had a bath for fourteen days, for, said he, "how dare we bathe it when it has fever?" We saw to it that the child had a bath and it soon recovered.

The doctor was called to see a woman in labor in Singhpur, thirty miles from Dhamtari. She had been suffering for four days before the doctor reached her. They said they had been praying to the gods for three days but no answer came. The condition of things was indescribable and in spite of all that could be done the woman died. A day earlier and the woman might have been saved. What a pity.

**Shantipur Notes.**

The lepers are very glad for the abundant rains as they were put to great inconvenience on account of lack of water. Now the wells are full. Nine inches of rain fell in ten days.

The deacon of the leper congregation who has charge of farming operations is busy with three and sometimes four plows getting the rice planted.

Health in the Leper Home has been better this hot season than usual at this time of the year.

This is the time of the year for all kinds of insects and snakes and scorpions. One needs to be careful especially at night. Some evenings it is almost impossible to sit near a lamp on account of the insects which drive one away.

**Girls' Orphanage Notes (Balodgahan.)**

The girls who had been away to school at Bilaspur and were back in the Orphanage for the hot season were busy sewing and in other preparations ready to return to school again at the beginning of July. Some of these girls are taking teachers' normal training and others English with the view of taking up nurses' training. We hope they will develop into useful women ready to help their more unfortunate Indian sisters.

Health has been very good among the girls this hot season.

School will reopen on the fourth of July so all the girls who have been away with their parents or friends will be returning very soon. Several new girls are expected this year.

On June 17th another one of our girls was married—this one to a young man from Dhamtari.

**Mohadi Notes.**

Sister Kaufman and Kathryn reached home from the hills on the 21st June after being held up several days at Dhamtari on account of the Mahanadi River being in flood and could not be crossed. Railway service on the Forest Tramway is suspended during the rainy season and the track is removed from the river bed during this time.

In addition to the new evangelistic house we built two small huts to accommodate some of our people. One two-roomed hut costing about seven dollars accommodates our Christian weaver and son with another old man and another hut costing two dollars accommodates the sweeper woman. The two huts are only temporary!

A profoundly grateful man from a village about six miles from here left the bungalow one morning after having a deep seated abscess lanced and drained of its poison. He suffered intense pain for about a week during which time he had very little sleep.

The trees growing on the compound in holes cut out of the murrum subsoil are showing new life since the rains have begun. The trees when grown larger will make a great change in the appearance of this station which at present looks so bare.

**Ghatula Notes.**

Bro. Lapp has been busy transferring Bible School students from Dhamtari. He made a number of trips with his car to which the trailer was attached each trip with a heavy load of students and luggage. The Bible School is now in session with students and teachers busy at work.

Bro. and Sister Lapp both had slight attacks of malaria but were able to shake them off after a few days.

Imam Ali, an old friend of the Mission living near Ghatula purchased a new Chevrolet car, Brother Lapp helping him to make the purchase.

**Form of Monthly Financial Statement sent to the Mission Board.  
American Mennonite Mission.**

*Financial Statement for the month of* ..... 192 .

*Location*.....

Name of Fund.	Credit Balance.	From A. M. Mission.	Other Sources.	TOTAL.	Expenditure	Closing Credit Balance.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
Charitable Institution								
Evangelistic								
Educational								
Medical								
Industrial								
Administration								
Emergency								
Building Repair								
Exchange								
Building								
Totals ...								

Dated ..... Signed .....



## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, August 1927. § No. 8.

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The Ghatula Evangelistic Station of the American Menonite Mission lies two and one-half miles southeast of the village of Sihawa, the police headquarters of the district, and forty-one miles southeast of Dhamtari. There is a good motorable road from Dhamtari to Sihawa which after this year can be used even throughout the rainy season because the entire road is being surfaced with crushed stone.

The first missionary to tour this district was Bro. Burkard who with his workers preached in the villages. They climbed the hill near the village of Sihawa and knelt near a Hindu shrine praying that God would in His own time open this district to Mission work. In 1915 this prayer was answered when the Mission was able to purchase about seven acres of land. Bro. and sister G. J. Lapp were the first missionaries at this station. In 1917 Sister Lapp was called to her eternal home, her illness being black water fever.

Ghatula may be considered as being located in the jungle situated as it is forty miles from the Railway. Long stretches of dense jungle must be traversed before one can reach the place though there is much open country in the district full of many villages. Wild animals are much in evidence. In the early days one of the evangelists, who was perhaps more afraid of the wild animals than some of the others, got into the habit of sleeping under his bed instead of on top and to make assurance doubly sure he piled boxes and other barriers around his bed to keep off the wild animals!

If you take a look at the frontispiece in the book "Building on the Rock" you will see the station very much as it exists today. There are the missionaries' bungalows, the Bible School, dormitories for the Bible School students, medical dispensary, and village school. These buildings largely represent the work carried on at this station aside from the church and evangelistic work.



It is interesting to note the changes in the attitude of the non-Christian people of the surrounding villages toward the work. They welcomed us to Ghatula with open arms. A public meeting was called during the first week of the opening of the station. To this meeting village owners, farmers, and officials were invited to gather with our Christian community in a praise service. They came. They were intensely interested in the singing, Scripture reading, prayer and talks. They made several very significant requests. One was that an English school should be opened as soon as possible and another was that we do nothing detrimental to the best interests of the people! The underlying meaning of the latter request was that we refrain from Christianizing the people. In 1917 when the station was temporarily unoccupied special offerings were made to the gods to keep the missionaries from returning and that the mission work in this district be closed.

But the missionaries returned as the Lord opened the way for the station to be occupied again. However, the people showed a hostile attitude. Due to the spirit of non-cooperation they became bold. They began their attack on the Mission village school and in time withdrew all the non-Christian children from the school. The period of opposition has now practically ceased and the school is larger than ever before. One man who had bitterly opposed the school has now sent his two children with the request that the Christian teacher refrain from reflecting on the boys because they had attended an opposition school.

The congregation at this station consists of forty-five members with a total Christian community of seventy-nine. Bro. Mukut is the deacon of this congregation. There are regular services every Sunday with mid-week prayer meetings. The congregation conducts a number of village Sunday schools not only at Ghatula itself but in surrounding villages and from the two out-stations conducted from this station. The out-stations are Gatasili on the Dhamtari-Sihawa road and Kaspur, a village south of Ghatula among the aborigines.

Three evangelists and four Bible women are engaged in preaching and teaching from this station and the two out-stations. One of the evangelists is a teacher in the Bible School and hence his work in the villages is limited to six

months of the year when the Bible School is not in session. Evangelistic tours are made in the cold season and considerable Christian literature is distributed by the evangelists. Since the opposition has ceased more Scriptures and other Christian literature than ever are being sold.

The station medical dispensary brings relief to many patients who come to it for help. Bro. and Sister Lapp and Inai Bai, a trained nurse, minister to the needs of the sick ones. In addition to the medical room there are several rooms for sick patients who find it necessary to remain for some time to get proper medical help.

The Bible Training School of the American Mennonite Mission is located at this station and this naturally takes much of the time of the missionaries located here. This year the school has been thrown open to unmarried sisters there being about ten in attendance at the present time. The total enrollment of the school is about twenty with three teachers—the two missionaries located here and Bro. Mukut, the deacon of the congregation. The school is in session each year from the first of July to the end of December and operates on the basis of a four year curriculum. Investigations are at present being made with the view of making available the teaching in this Bible School in a larger way to our village school teachers who are also classed as evangelistic workers. This is a problem that needs the prayers of the home church.

#### WILL YOU PRAY

1. For the Bible School and the teachers and students in a special way?
2. For the evangelistic workers that their messages may find hungering hearts for the truth?
3. For the single sisters who attend the Bible School for the first time that they may learn the deep things of the spirit?
4. For the much opposed mission village school that it may be the means of bringing the Good News to the pupils in attendance?
5. For suitable successors to Bro. and Sister Lapp who will in a few years go on furlough to America?

Small pox and cholera are still raging in the Mohadi district as well as in Dhamtari and other places. There continue to be fatalities from both epidemics.

Brother Beares and Brother Knisses have started house-keeping the former at Balodgahan and the latter at Dhamtari. They are finding the experience interesting from a number of points of view and different from their experiences in housekeeping at home.

Eleven of our missionaries are preparing for the Hindi language examinations to be held in October. We had considerable difficulty in providing suitable language teachers for so many candidates but all are busy now working on their courses.

Arrangements have recently been made for the use of a small plot of ground in the village of Sikosa about twenty miles north west of the Sankra station. Sikosa is on the road and is easily reached from Sankra by automobile. Permission has been obtained from the land owner to erect a small building to be used in connection with the leper clinic which has been conducted near this place at Pairi for some time. When the house is completed the work will be done at Sikosa instead of in Pairi. The land owners made no charge for the use of the land and we wrote up an agreement to the effect that we can have the use of the land as long as it is used for medical purposes but that we lay no other claim to the plot. The land owner is a very pious Hindu spending hours each day in meditation, prayer and worship of the gods. He has three grandsons who attend High School. While we were in his village the father of one of the grandsons made careful inquiries regarding sending his son to America for study.

The bungalow at Sankra which was remodeled is receiving its finishing touches and will soon be entirely completed.

The Managing Committee in its meeting on July 8th recommended to a special committee to investigate Ghatula station as a possible location for the Mission Normal School. Owing to difficulties of travel in the rainy season the committee has not been able to make this investigation though they made three attempts to make the trip.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Sept. 1927. § No. 9.

This is not a medical number though you will notice in this issue frequent mention of such words as leper clinic, epidemic, operation, colds and fevers, disease, etc., indicating the demands made on the medical arm of the Mission. The rainy season often brings in its wake various diseases and epidemics which must be treated by both medical and non-medical workers.

The task of looking after the health of our people is not a light one. Through our medical facilities we not only, through God's help and blessing, cure diseases and relieve suffering but see a very important avenue of approach to thousands of non-Christians whose contact with Christianity is in many cases alone through medical treatment.

At one station a child who has been put under an anaesthetic is operated on by a non-medical missionary relieving the child of much suffering. At another station a non-medical worker cuts away large portions of the decomposed heel of a young man who had walked eight miles in search of relief from months of suffering. A little boy, the only child, who in all probability would have succumbed to a bad case of pneumonia, and who could not have enjoyed the benefits of our hospital was restored to his grateful parents. Our station medical dispensaries supplement the work done in the Mission Hospital by rendering help to thousands who could never be induced to go to the Hospital.

The unmet medical needs in the villages even within easy reach of our dispensaries are appalling. Native quacks and witch doctors still hold the people in their power. Superstition keeps many a poor sufferer from coming to us for proper treatment. Often when they do come it is a case of last resort and therefore often hopeless. Ignorance and neglect in the care of children is almost unbelievable. Recently a man came to one of our dispensaries asking what to do for his wife to induce milk-flow. She had volunteered to act as wet nurse to a motherless infant and was still nursing her own four year old boy!

Evangelism through medical effort has proved to be very much worth while.

*M. Kaufman*

**Ghatula Notes.**

Small-pox is still raging in Ghatula and in the surrounding villages. They have escorted the small-pox goddess out of the village of Paikbhanta, one mile west of Ghatula. This is always attended with great ceremony. It is then considered that the village is free from her further ravages.

Lepers continue coming to the dispensary for the injections from which they get so much help. There is no illness in the station itself excepting one case of malaria fever.

A child was operated on recently who had to be put under an anaesthetic. The child suffered greatly for some weeks. A non-professional missionary dislikes undertaking such responsibilities but sometimes it cannot be helped.

A very interesting temperance meeting was held on the evening of the 14th of August. Essays were read and songs sung by the Indians, an address was given on the evil effects of drink, drugs and tobacco, and at the close of the meeting a number testified as to the difference which they experienced since they stopped using tobacco. Two asked that they be prayed for in order that they might be freed from the tobacco habit.

**Sankra Notes.**

The rains have made it difficult for our workers to get to the villages during the past several weeks. They made use of their time in Bible study and in preparation for the Christian Workers Normal to be held in the fall.

The leper clinic which has been moved from Pairi to Sikosa continues to treat many lepers. Some of the patients are very glad for the change in location as it makes it nearer for them. Others are sorry because they have to travel farther. We stop at Pairi on suitable days to accommodate those who can not go so far. By request we have also promised to stop in Lotobor, nearly three miles from Pairi. Working in three villages makes a full day for the medical workers. It also means that many more people hear the Gospel and receive treatment for their ailments. Brother Sadhuram, our deacon, and his wife are a great help in this work.

**Dhamtari Notes.**

The enrollment in the Middle and High School with the new term beginning in July is as follows:

Christian boys	...	...	79
Hindu boys	...	...	113
Mohammedan boys	...	...	15

a total of 207. The teaching staff consists of seven Christians, six Hindus and one Mohammedan. Six of the teachers are B. A. graduates and all have some college or normal training. The Government gives us a monthly grant of \$ 175.00 for the school.

Little Paul Kniss who had been suffering from a baffling illness during the past several weeks is slowly improving for which we are very thankful. He is at present in the European Ward of the Hospital.

**Shantipur Notes.**

We are thankful for the good rains which are necessary for the growing rice. During the past two months 33½ inches of rain has fallen.

This year the lepers do their own farm work instead of through share farmers as formerly. This provides more work for them. All who are able to go to the fields help in the weeding. They are happier with more work and when they are kept busy it is a great help in connection with the leprosy treatments they are receiving.

Three boys and two girls who have been pronounced free from the disease have been removed from the Leper Home to leprosy-free quarters. They are indeed very happy. It is hard for any one to realize just what it means to them until one has seen patients on whom leprosy has done its worst and left them without fingers or toes or caused other deformities. We also took two babies, aged eighteen and sixteen months, away from their leprous mothers to save the children from the danger of infection. They are both doing well in the Girls' Home.

We are also glad to report spiritual blessings. One old blind woman who has been with us but two years is so happy to be able to repeat the Ten Commandments. She loves to hear the singing of the "Jesus songs". Another dear old blind woman was worried about the rain not coming but later testified, "I believe in God more than ever before for He has heard our prayers and sent us the nice rain."

Pray that each leper may have full freedom from the disease of sin though their bodies may be past saving from the disease of leprosy.

**Balodgahan Notes (Girls Orphanage School.)**

Health among the girls is quite good with the exception of colds and fevers. During the rains we have usually more sickness than other times of the year.



Two more of our girls will be married in a few weeks. We trust they may be lights among their neighbors and in their homes and true witnesses for Christ.

Bible classes have again been organized among the girls. Will you pray that His Word may sink deep into their young hearts and qualify them to become soul winners for Christ.

School has again opened with an enrollment of 219 girls. For some time the village girls and one of the teachers could not attend school on account of small-pox. But at the present time all are in school and are busy and happy in their work. Pray for the teachers that they may be real witnesses for God and that they may not only impart knowledge from books but that they may lead the girls closer to Christ.

#### **Balodgahan Notes (Village.)**

July 27th to August 3rd was spent in teaching the Bible course to our Christian workers.

Small-pox is still raging and several deaths have occurred recently. Because of the severity of the small-pox epidemic the Hindus of Balodgahan have asked us for permission to conduct a witch hunt in the village. In refusing their request we offered to set aside a special day of prayer that God might check the disease. Some of the people were pleased with the plan but others thought it would be too much Christian and refused to co-operate. The people decided not to set aside a day of prayer until they were all of one mind.

Two little boys, Thomas and Alfred, of the Baby Home have been very sick. They had high temperature most of the time for three weeks. They are much better now and are regaining their strength.

The widows of the Home are busy transplanting and weeding rice. Thus far the rice looks good.

#### **Mohadi Notes.**

Special Bible classes have been conducted two days of each week for a number of weeks on the Gospel of Luke and the Epistle to the Hebrews. The Christian workers took very special interest.

The weekly bazars near here and several villages have been "closed" on account of small-pox and cholera.



*J. N. Kauffman* 15

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Oct. 1927. § No. 10.

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Where shall we locate main stations in our Mission Field so that the field may be properly occupied? That is the question that confronts us at the present time. Various factors must be considered. The stations must not be too close together else there will be overlapping of work. That would be wasteful. Accessibility is an important factor for it means much to be located at a place where work is almost impossible for a large part of the year on account of the mud and swollen streams of the rainy season. Availability is often a deciding factor for a station can not be built even in an ideal center if land is not available. This is a problem that confronts us at the present time. Then, of course, finances are necessary wherever a station is to be opened.

The Mission has for several years been making surveys with the view of opening a new evangelistic station. We have the money and the workers. Locations are available but they do not seem to be in the right places, at least according to our judgment. We have in mind ideal locations but unfortunately land is not available. We are seeking the will of the Lord in this important matter for we do not wish to make a mistake. We feel that a year or two of delay is better than to run ahead of the Lord. A special committee is at work on this problem. Several trips have again been made the past month and sufficient information has now been obtained to make recommendations to the Managing Committee. We are very hopeful now that the long wished for and prayed station may be a realization.

The semi-annual oral language examination in Hindi was held at Dhamtari on the 28th of September. There were seventeen candidates in all, ten of whom were from our Mission. It was a very busy day not only for the missionary candidates and the examiners but also for the missionaries who provided entertainment for the crowd. The written examinations will be held October 18—20.

The rainy season has about come to its close. The latter rains have been a bit erratic but on the whole we have had a good rainy season. More than seventy inches of rain has fallen which is about twenty inches more than the average annual rainfall. Though there had been an unusual break in the rains in September the rice crop will be very fair.



**Dhamtari Notes.**

One of the Christian teachers in the Gopalpuri Mission school was awakened by his wife about four o'clock in the morning. She told him that something had bitten her on the foot. Both she and her husband got up at once and searched the house but could find nothing. Examination of the foot a few hours later, however, revealed two fang marks.

She felt no discomfort and it was concluded that the snake must not have been poisonous. After cooking the morning meal, turning out the cattle and doing some rice weeding in the field she returned to the house complaining of a headache and dizziness. She soon developed violent convulsions, then stupor, and died about three o'clock in the afternoon. Dr. Troyer who had been sent for arrived about half an hour after she was dead. The trip to the village, seven miles distant, meant wading water in places above the knees.

The nature of the death made necessary a post mortem police examination and so a trip had to be made back to Dhamtari for Bro. Graber, the pastor of the church, and the police. She was buried about six o'clock of the day she died, in a grave from which the water could not all be removed because of the heavy rains. This is just an instance of work on the advance line of God's Kingdom in bringing Christ to India.

One day recently a good service was held in the village of Danitola among the Chamars, a people of very low caste. The people listened especially well and admitted with emphasis that all we said was true. But the immediate reason for their interest was a request for a Mission primary school in their village. There are at least fifty Chamar children in the village and only two can read. The law permits such low caste children to attend regularly established schools but social pressure from the upper castes keeps the children out of school. Let us pray that Christ may find His way into the hearts of even these low-caste, despised people who are, in the sight of God, precious.

**Balodgahan Notes.**

Recently a Brahmin baby twelve days old arrived at the Baby Home after having been carried in a basket about fifty miles. Many interested people visit the Baby Home and through their visits hear the Gospel. The care of the helpless little ones speaks to them of the love of Christ. Similarly the Widows Home brings an almost constant stream of visitors who go away impressed with the practical truths of Christianity.

As previously reported Balodgahan has been going through an epidemic of smallpox. Twelve Hindus died of the disease while only a few Christians contracted small-pox in a light form and none of them died. This fact made a great impression on the Hindus who worship small-pox as a goddess. As a result they stopped their worship.

**Sankra Notes.**

The past month has been a very full one. Part of the time has been spent in Bible study with the workers. A break in the rains made it possible to do more district work. During the past few weeks we have had the privilege of ministering to the sick and bringing the message of love to a large number of people. We have met with many hungry souls. Quite a few with whom we have worked, we feel, are near the kingdom. They have heard the voice of God, their consciences have been aroused, and they stand now like Lazarus did when he came out of the grave—bound hand and feet with grave clothes—such as caste, idols and relatives. Jesus says, "Loose them." The responsibility now rests upon the missionaries, Indian workers, and the church here and at home. It is only through prayer that it can be accomplished. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

**Ghatula Notes.**

The Bible School examinations were held during the past month. Two students failed. The highest average was 81% and the lowest 36%. The second term of the school year has begun.

An old man from a distant village was brought to the dispensary with a carbuncle on his back. Lancing soon brought relief to the sufferer but the wound is healing slowly because of infection which has set in from mis-treatment before. Another poor sufferer with a very bad hand is in a ward of the dispensary. It will be very difficult to save his hand after several months of such applications as it received at the hands of the village "Baids". Infection has gone all through the hand.

Snakes and wild pigs cause occasional interruptions. A snake fell from the roof of a Christian worker's house and frightened all who were in the yard. Unfortunately the snake got away. Wild pigs destroy much of the rice in the fields when they are not shot or frightened away.

**Mohadi Notes.**

A boy about ten years old suffering from a very bad abscess was carried on a bed from his village about six miles

from here. When lanced the "matter" was ejected fully fifteen inches high and a quart and a half of it drained out. A very grateful father took his boy back home after a week's treatment.

We are able to make splendid use of the large Sunday School pictures in connection with our medical dispensary. A large picture is given to each patient coming from the villages around. These pictures are put up in many homes in the villages of the district and will form a means of contact when we tour these villages later in the season.

We have been entertaining many people at the bungalow who came from their villages to see and hear. We have made no special attempt to get them to come. On Sunday September 25th about 125 people from four different villages were here. Sunday School cards and tracts were given to those who are able to read. A talk was given on the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The people enjoyed the Christian hymns that were sung. One Wednesday thirty-five Hindus were present at the weekly prayer service. One day when one of the missionaries was out in the village the other entertained two big groups of people from different villages consuming the entire forenoon. These visits present unique opportunities for presenting the claims of Christ.

An entire family in a neighboring village has been excommunicated from their caste because one member of the family had a bad sore which became infected with maggots. The excommunication ban is to be in effect for a year at the expiration of which they must go from house to house begging for a time and then they must feed their caste people from five villages. This will cost them hundreds of rupees. When this is done they will be re-instated in caste again. The family is very poor.

One Sunday evening a boy was brought to the bungalow by his excited relatives begging for help. The boy had a fish hook caught in his nose. He, with other boys, was fishing in a pond when the accident happened. The worm was embedded on the hook. It took but a short time to cut off the line-end of the hook and then force the hook out through the end of his nose and withdraw it. The boy claimed it did not hurt and laughed when it was over. It was an almost literal "Fishers of men" experience.

PRAY that we may all become real fishers of men in the real sense of the word.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Nov. 1927. § No. 11.

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The Managing Committee of the Mission met in regular quarterly session October 10 and 11. At present there are seven members on this committee. Among the items of business transacted are the following:—

1. Tentative missionary appointments for the year 1928 were made. These appointments will be ratified or altered in a special meeting of the Committee Nov. 25th.
2. It was decided to ask the Mennonite Board of Education through the Mission Board to include in its solicitations for an endowment fund for educational institutions our own English school here. The amount asked for — \$ 50,000.00— had already been sanctioned by the Mission Board. The income from this endowment will go a long way towards providing the running expenses of the school.
3. It was also decided to obtain estimates for the construction of a telephone line to connect Mohadi and Ghatula mission stations with Dhamtari and other stations of the Mission. On account of the bad roads between Ghatula and Dhamtari and between Mohadi and Dhamtari transportation difficulties are very great in the rainy season. Telephone communications between these more or less isolated stations and Dhamtari will be a great blessing not only in times of sickness when a doctor must be summoned but also in the ordinary course of mission work as carried on from day to day. Each of the two stations is about forty miles from Dhamtari by motorable road. Final action will be taken after the estimates to build the line are submitted.
4. The special committee on location of stations submitted its report recommending a center in the western part of our field for the new evangelistic station. The Managing Committee felt that further investigations should be made before final action is taken. Tours in two sections



of our field are ordered by the Managing Committee between now and the special meeting in November.

5. Financial matters consumed a considerable amount of time in the work of the Committee. No mission money can be expended by any missionary without the special sanction of the Managing Committee. The regular monthly budgets are scrutinized and passed upon once a year. The amounts allowed each missionary for his work are drawn month by month by voucher. There are always legitimate items of expenditure coming up which are as essential as the regular budgeted allowances but which can not be foreseen as to the exact nature. For such items we have included in our annual budgets what we designate as "Emergency Fund" and any special items are taken from this fund also drawn by voucher provided they are allowed by the Committee. A number of such items were considered and allowed at our last meeting. The items of expense for the annual renovation and repair of buildings were also considered at this meeting and ordered paid from our special Building Repair Fund.

As this is being written the Annual Christian Workers Normal is in session with all but a few of the workers in attendance. The first two days were occupied in examinations on the study course. The remainder of the two weeks of the duration of the Normal will be taken up in daily devotional and inspirational studies, addresses on doctrinal subjects, and meetings for the deepening of the spiritual life. The workers are arranged in four groups for purposes of the devotional studies led by as many group leaders.

The Hindi language examinations for missionaries were held on October 18-20 with ten of our missionaries participating as follows:— First year, four; second year, five; third year, one.

The Conference constitution revision committee held its second session on October 12 and 13. The revision committee consists of all bishops, ministers, deacons and representative

lay members of the several congregations. There is still considerable work to be done before the Committee's work is completed. A "Thus saith the Lord" results in unanimous decisions on doctrinal and other points.

The missionaries residing at Ghatula and Mohadi were happy to be able to use their cars again to go to Dhamtari—the first time since the beginning of the rainy season in the middle of June. The roads are generally good with the exception of the boulder strewn streams still unbridged. Repair work by the Government is going on rapidly which means that in a few weeks the roads will be in excellent condition. The Mahanadi river road has not yet been repaired since the rains but we are fortunate to be able to have our cars ferried across the irrigation dam near Rudri about four miles from Dhamtari.

The Indian Christian Carpentry Company which had been functioning successfully for some six years has gone defunct. It had taken over the carpentry business formerly carried on by the Mission and had developed a good business with a large annual turn over. The cause of the failure is mismanagement. A committee is at work to find ways and means whereby the work may be re-established.

“Out of every six persons on this globe of ours, one person lives in the Indian villages. The inhabitants of rural India compose one-sixth of the population of the world and nine-tenths of India’s people. What is the economic condition of these villagers? Most of them live a hand-to-mouth existence, and scarcely know whence their next meal will come. They are enmeshed in a net of extreme poverty from which they have done little to extricate themselves..... Some wealthy people dwelling in the villages wield great influence. The money lender, the grain dealer and hereditary landlords amass large sums of money, but their numbers are comparatively few. The great bulk of the people, including many of the upper castes, are sunk in abject poverty.

What are some of the main reasons for this pitiable poverty? First, low production prevails over most of India, except in some of the delta areas... The yield per acre is also low. The meagre production springs from a large number of causes, especially poor health and low stamina, uneven distribution of water through the year, depletion of the soil fertility, varieties of crops that are mediocre in quality, poor tools and methods of cultivation, weak drought animals, excessive fragmentation of the land into uneconomical holdings, and last, but not least, the great cloud of ignorance that covers India. These causes operate in varying degrees, according to the region.

In addition to low productivity, another reason for poverty is the ordinary cultivator’s poor facilities for selling his crops advantageously.....

A third reason for the villager’s poverty is the large part of his income which he lavishes on weddings, funerals and other religious ceremonies... The peasants must also pay exorbitant amount to the money lender and grain dealer, and, if he does not own land, to the landlord.....

Still another reason for the cultivator’s poverty is the fact that most of whatever savings he may make are unproductive, mostly dead coins and jewelry. He sometimes invests in land when he can, but this is rarely possible.....

These four reasons for the desperate poverty of the villagers may be summed up in the words, “economic inefficiency”.

Extract from address by Mason Olcott published in “*Young Men of India*”.



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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Vol. VI. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Dec. 1927. § No. 12.

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We are glad to welcome to India the return of Sister Mary Good and the coming for the first time of Bro. and Sister Vogt. They arrived at Dhamtari in good health on the 25th of November and proceeded at once to Balodgahan where they will live for the present. Sister Good will be in charge of the Girls' School and Bro. and Sister Vogt. will begin the study of the language.

The tentative annual appointments for missionaries have now been confirmed in a recent meeting of the Managing Committee details of which may be found on the last page. These appointments will give the reader some idea how the work is cared for in the mission. In addition to the responsibilities represented in the appointments missionaries also serve as pastors of congregations and as officers of the missionary organization.

Mention has been made from time to time in these columns regarding the location of new stations and the urgency to find a location soon for an evangelistic station. Recently the information has come to us that a neighboring mission is seriously considering giving up a large territory on account of lack of finances in that mission. Our Mission is looking into the matter to see if the territory in question could wisely be added to our present field. The matter is pertinent as the territory is immediately adjacent to our present field.

Miss Katherine Mayo's book, "Mother India" has aroused intense interest not only in India but in England and America. The author is a remarkably gifted writer but she has not been fair to the public. Although her facile pen has pictured many horrifying conditions which are for the most part true in some section or other of India yet she has unfortunately allowed herself to generalize on these statements so as to leave a totally wrong impression of the country. Notwithstanding this criticism of the book those who are honestly concerned for the welfare of India will set about more energetically than ever to clean house.

## Ghatula Notes.

Communion was celebrated on Nov. 6. Dr. Esch had charge of the service. Fifty nine members partook of the sacred emblems. The Esch family stayed over until Monday when Dr. Esch gave a talk to the Bible School students.

Bro. and Sister Kaufman and Kathryn visited us on Nov. 13 and 14. Bro. Kaufman gave a talk to the students on the forenoon of the 14th. They appreciate these talks from those who come from the other stations.

Bible School will close Dec. 8th so the students are busy reviewing their lessons. We trust that in the following six months they will use in their village preaching what they have learned during their stay here. Pray for them.

Several patients, who are in a serious condition, have come for treatment this month. One tubercular case came every day for ten days for injections and he says he feels much better. Another patient is a man with a very sore mouth. His gums are very badly swollen and his teeth have been drawn and his mouth is better but he is going to Dhamtari for further treatment.

One poor sufferer came to the hospital for treatment and was responding nicely when he suddenly disappeared. He was last seen being carried on the back of a coolie toward Sihawa, his destination probably being Gatasili whence he came. It was learned that he was a hard drinker and the thirst for strong drink evidently got the better of him. He had asked to become a Christian. He is well educated, had been in the employ of the Public Works Department as time-keeper, knows English, but has become a wreck.

#### **Sankra Notes.**

God has again blessed us in a special way. We are all very thankful for the Gospel truck which was received about the beginning of November. We have definite evidences that it came in answer to prayer and we thank God and the brethren at home who sent the means. By means of the truck workers and medicines can be conveyed to villages which could otherwise not be reached at all.

Recently revival meetings were conducted in the Sankra congregation. Our members expressed themselves as having been greatly blessed. Bro. and Sister Graber and Sister Troyer helped in the meetings and others were here as visitors from other stations. The meetings were closed with communion, Bro. Brunk preaching the sermon. One of the features of the meetings was an hour of Bible study and prayer daily at sunrise. Many of our members expressed publicly their desire to live closer to God and to do more for the ingathering of the lost about us.

Following the special meeting in the congregation a week's campaign was conducted in the villages.

#### **Shantipur Notes.**

The annual whitewashing is just finished and since it is the first time all the buildings are white it makes quite a difference in the appearance of the Leper Home. We might wish that it were as simple to whiten the lives of all in the Home but we are glad that the blood of Jesus Christ can do it. We know He is working even though the results are not so quickly seen.

The rice crop has just been harvested, the yield being nearly equal to last year's yield. The work this year was almost all done by the lepers themselves and they are really pleased with their rice crop. The leper women do the rice hulling and that means a considerable saving in the fooding expenses.

Communion service was held on Oct. 10th and at Maradeo on the 20th of Nov. At the latter place especially the service was impressive. The congregation is small and we specially impelled to pray that each one of the disciples there might be such a power for righteousness that soon there may be many from the village of Maradeo who will become Christians. Sister Irene Lehman who is soon leaving for America was present at the service as this was her last opportunity to partake of the communion before she leaves India.

#### **Dhamtari Notes.**

The Boys of the Normal class have spent four days studying methods of presenting the Gospel in a village by living in the village and noting the work of the teachers working in the schools. This method has been found most effective when carefully guided.

#### **Mohadi Notes.**

Communion service was conducted on the 27th of November. Twenty-nine members of the congregation partook of the sacred emblems. Five others who were visitors also participated. The rest of the members of this congregation are boys and girls in the boarding schools. Dr. Esch who was present with his family conducted the service.

The little railway has resumed business since the rainy season. Timber and other forest produce is now being transferred to the markets.

#### **Balodgahan Notes.**

The past month has been a busy one on account of annual house cleaning in the form of whitewashing all the buildings, and on account of the rice harvest which, because of the abundance of rain which the Lord has sent, was a good crop.

Communion was observed on the 6th November. Pray that these people may really learn the full meaning and blessing of obeying the ordinances. A week previous to the communion eleven girls were received into the church by baptism, Bro. Friesen officiating. Pray that these girls may not only add names to the church records but that they may, through consecrated lives, be a real blessing to the church.

The annual thanks giving service was held early in November. The bringing of sheaves of rice, pumpkins, eggs, chickens and other things which the Christian people had gathered as special offerings reminded us of the stories of our forefathers. After the sermon the offerings were taken outside and sold. Those who had not brought gifts in kind brought money. The total for the congregation amounted to forty-one dollars. The money will be used for home mission work.

On Sunday the 20th Bro. Beare preached his first Hindi sermon.

On November 27th all the missionaries who were able to be present assembled at the Ladies Bungalow for a special service of thanks giving for the new missionaries, Bro. and Sister Vogt, and for the return of Sister Good who are stationed at Balodgahan.

## Missionary Appointments for 1928.

- Ghatula** —Bro. and Sister Lapp—Bible School, Evangelistic and medical work, village schools.
- Sankra** —Bro. and Sister Friesen—Medical and evangelistic work building work.  
Bro. and Sister Kniss—Language study, Evangelistic work primary school and school kitchen.
- Mohadi** —Bro. and Sister Beare—Language study, evangelistic and medical work, building.
- Balodgahan** —Bro. and Sister Brunk—Evangelistic and medical work, Widows' Home, Baby Home, primary schools, farm.  
Sister Kanagy—Girls' Orphanage.  
Sister Good—Girls' School.  
Bro. and Sister Vogt—Language Study.
- Medical Station**—Dr. and Sister Troyer—Medical work and evangelistic work at hospital.  
Sister Hartzler—Superintendent of hospital.
- Shantipur** —Dr. and Sister Esch—Leper Asylum work and evangelistic work at Maradeo to July 1. After July 1 including Seodi sub-station the work will be in charge of Bro. and Sister Graber.
- Dhamtari** —Sister Sarah Lapp—Evangelistic work.  
Bro. and Sister Graber—Carpentry school, evangelistic work up to July, Seodi sub-station, language study.  
Bro. and Sister Lehman—Boys' Orphanage, Normal school for men, primary school at Dhamtari, village schools.  
Bro. and Sister Kaufman—English school and hostel, Girls school and school kitchen, and after July 1, Carpentry school and evangelistic work.
- Proceeding on furlough** —Bro. and Sister Miller.  
Dr. and Sister Esch after July 1.