

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C.P., India, January, 1933. § No. 1.

## CHRISTMAS.

Special Christmas programs were held at all the stations, and, in some of the large stations there were a number of programs. In Dhamtari the Senior Hostel, Boys' Boarding and the Carpentry School had a big meal and a program on different evenings of the week preceding Christmas. At Balodgahan the Girls' School had a program one evening and the village community rendered one on another evening. On Christmas Day the children of the village Sunday Schools came in and took their part in repeating verses and singing songs.

At Ghatula, on Christmas Day, a large crowd met under a big tree to hear the program given by the three Primary schools combined. The children each repeated a Scripture verse. "Our hearts were touched to hear these little children from Hindu homes singing with glad hearts of "OUR" Lord." After the program a meal of rice and dal was cooked for them, as many of them came as far as three or four miles. Over half of the Industrial School girls were away for their Christmas vacation, visiting parents or relatives.

At Sankra about one hundred and fifty Hindus attended the services on Christmas Eve. Hindu boys took part in repeating Bible verses.

At Mahodi the new church building was filled with Hindu listeners when the program was rendered by the Christian community on Christmas Eve.

Dondi reports, "The number of non-Christians that come to our Christmas services is increasing each year. This year the crowd was larger than ever before. They also showed more interest in the services."

At Shantipur Christmas time is always a happy time for the lepers. They received new clothes several days before, and after the services on Christmas morning, each one was given a new, knit, woollen scarf. Over two hundred scarves were given out. They came from Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand. In the evening four bonfires were built

and the lepers gathered around and sang and beat their drums. A number of missionaries from other stations came to hear them sing. Quite a number of Hindus came at this time to visit their leper relatives.

#### HOLIDAY MEETINGS.

Our holiday meetings began with the Church Conference on the evening of Dec. 28. Bro. Geo. H. Beare was Moderator. Bro. John Haidar, pastor of the Sunderganj congregation, preached the conference sermon. On the morning of the next day the business of the conference was taken up and continued until late in the afternoon. There were 52 delegates present and many of them took an active part in the discussions. Two important subjects discussed were those pertaining to pastoral support and to medical examinations previous to marriage.

Jalsa commenced on the evening of Dec. 29 and continued until the evening of Dec. 31. A good interest was manifested. The principal speaker was Martin Luther, an Indian pastor from Jubbulpore. He gave good scriptural talks and we trust that many were benefited by them.

On Sunday, Jan. 1, was the annual Sunday School Conference. The final meeting was that evening and was closed with a sermon on Prayer by Martin Luther.

#### TOURING.

Sister Sarah Lapp, accompanied by Sisters Hartzler and Kanagy, two Bible women and an evangelist, spent almost a month on tour, returning a week before Christmas. They visited the district in which they had toured in the beginning of last year and visited in many of the same homes. Sister Lapp writes, "They were very glad to see us again and some had remembered the songs and Bible stories which they had heard a year ago. The evening meetings were well attended and the people listened very attentively. Several said that the Christian religion is true and that they would like to come, but they are not yet willing to forsake home, friends and all for His sake. They need our prayers."

#### GENERAL NEWS.

Bro. Brunk spent the week of Dec. 5—11 at Sankra. He conducted evangelistic meetings every evening and had a class with the evangelists and Bible women, in Bible story telling,

in the morning. The power of the Holy Spirit was felt. One woman stood and thus manifested her desire for instruction and baptism. Her husband has also expressed his desire to be a Christian. Bro. Brunk also held a week's meetings at Ghatula before going to Sankra.

Two days of special prayer in behalf of the work of the station were observed at Dondi. All who attended received a great blessing.

On Dec. 17 Dr. Troyer made his first visit to the Dondi dispensary. He performed two tonsil operations. He was assisted by Sisters Hartzler and Holsopple. He also prescribed for a number of medical cases.

Miss Lehmann, of the General Conf. Mennonite Mission, spent a week visiting our different stations. Her visit was much appreciated.

On Dec. 24 Shantipur and Balodgahan were honored by a short call from the Governor of Central Provinces, Sir Montague Butler. He was accompanied by Lady Butler. They inspected the leper homes and then went to see the Girls' Boarding at Balodgahan. They left a gift of money for the inmates of both institutions.

On Dec. 22 the Viceroy of India, Lord Willingdon, accompanied by Lady Willingdon, spent two hours in Raipur. They were the guests of Rajkumar College. That is a school for the princes of the Feudatory States of C. P. Bro. and Sis. Miller and Sister Mary Good had the honor of receiving invitations to be present at the Viceroy's reception.

#### WEDDINGS.

Just before Christmas, one of the Industrial School girls, Asra, (an orphan) was married to the son of a former evangelist. They will make their home in Dhamtari where the young man is employed as a tailor. After the wedding all the Christians at Ghatula were given a rice and curry dinner by the parents of the groom.

On Dec. 30 Mariam Sonu, who has been teaching in the Balodgahan Girls' School for the past 5 years, was married to Cyril Derha. That evening a meal was served to a large number of guests in the bridegroom's home.

## MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS FOR 1933.

MEDICAL STATION...G. D. and Kathryn Troyer  
Mary Holsopple

SUNDERGANJ ...J. N. and Elsie Kaufman  
E. E. and Ruth Miller

SHANTIPUR ...G. J. and Fannie Lapp

BALODGAHAN ...M. C. and Esther Vogt  
Mary Wenger  
Mary Good

SANKRA ...R. R. and Alma Smucker  
Ada Hartzler

DONDI ...A. C. and Eva Brunk

MAHODI ...S. J. and Ida Hostetler  
Dora Shantz

GHATULA ...P. A. and Florence Friesen  
Minnie Kanagy

## PROCEEDING ON FURLOUGH

G. H. and Ida Beare

Sarah Lapp

L. A. and Elizabeth Kniss



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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## DHAMTARI

On Monday Jan. 23, 1933 Sister Sarah, wife of Bro. John Haider, pastor of the Sunderganj congregation, passed to her eternal reward. Her age was 41 years. For sometime her health had not been good and the doctor hoped to avoid a dangerous operation by careful treatment. The trouble persisted, and the operation was performed as a last resort. Sarah Bai stood the operation well for a few days good hopes were entertained for her recovery, but complications set in, and she peacefully passed away on the morning of the sixth day. The funeral was held at the home and a large concourse of people gathered to pay their last tribute of respect to one who was greatly beloved.

Sarah Bai was married to Bro. John Haider at the age of sixteen. To them were born nine children, all of whom are living. The eldest son, Jacob, is married and has one child. Rachel is a teacher in Garjan Memorial School at Balodgahan. The others are in school or are below school age. The youngest is eighteen months old. Sarah Bai was of a quiet, unassuming nature, always kind and patient. There were always many people coming and going in their home, and at times her responsibilities were heavy, yet she was always cheerful, and people appreciated the hospitality of her home. Although of a timid nature she filled her place in the church in an acceptable manner. Bro. Haider and the children feel their loss keenly and need your prayers in this sad bereavement.

## MEDICAL STATION

Two of the most amusing cases we have had for a long time were two rather elderly women who walked from a village north of Dhamtari, past the hospital, to Shantipur because they had heard that there was a wonderful doctor there who could make them see. It happened that they arrived there on the day Dr. Troyer was at Shantipur for leper clinic so when his work was done there, he brought them along back to the hospital. Their eyes needed some treatments first so we did not have the operation at once. This they could not understand. Time and again we would be reminded of the purpose for which they had come. One was very dramatic in showing us just how the cataracts should be removed. Almost daily they would, by the help of their ever

present sticks and by leading each other, make their way to the bungalow to tell the doctor's wife to use her influence to hasten the operations. On Christmas Day they found their way to church. After church, as folks were leaving, they were outside the door and heard the doctor's voice. "That is our sahib", the one said to her companion. Afterward we asked them what they heard in church and their reply was, "Jesus Christ". One day they asked for leave to go home because some relative had died. We told them to return on a certain day, but they have not yet returned. We hope they will come back. Their minds are very simple and childish. They are not capable of going very deep into things spiritual but we pray that they might learn to trust the One of whom they have heard while here.

On the Thursday before Christmas we had a woman with ovarian cyst for operation. She had wasted away so fast in the previous two months that we were doubtful of recovery. But as her friends insisted, we had the operation. When she returned from the operating room she was pulseless. But after a few days we again had hopes for her recovery. Her incision did not heal properly and had to be sutured again. This time it healed nicely and she has now gone home. We have reminded her that Jesus Christ healed her and she is very ready to say, "Yes, He healed me just as He raised that little girl (pointing to a picture on the wall) from the dead". She however has not given up all her heathen customs. She and her friends are now great friends of the hospital. Will you pray for us that we might wield a Christian influence over them.

Our pastor's wife, Mrs. Haider, came to us and was operated on for tumor on Jan. 18. She seemed to get along fairly well at first but the following Sunday we saw she was not improving. On the morning of the 23rd she passed away to be with her Lord. Pray for her bereaved husband and children.

#### MOHADI

These last two weeks in January have been busy ones for me. Jan. 18 I came to Mohadi to begin my work. My trunks and furniture were there when I arrived. Among the first things then was unpacking, getting acquainted with the work of the dispensary and with the people of the community. Each Thursday we have a leper clinic. One week four came and last week five. We expect more when they learn that there is some one at the dispensary all the time. Among our other patients we have itch and various skin diseases, malaria, rheumatism, etc. A young man, after being sick a month, and first trying the village medicine man's remedies, at last sent his old grandmother for help. We made several trips to see him besides sending medicine. We

can do very little for him because he refused to take the medicine we had given. We were called to another village where we helped welcome twin boys. The father came to the bungalow this morning, four days later, and reports all are doing well. Beside the dispensary work, I will spend several hours a day studying Hindi.

DORA SHANTZ.

#### BALODGAHAN

The congregation at this place has chosen Bro. Sukhlal as pastor for 1933. This is the first time he is serving the church in this capacity. Pray that God may lead him.

A number of home sites have been bought in the village recently, and quite a number of new houses are being built on them. The weather is warm and so the mud walls will dry quickly.

Recently, in evening prayers in the Girls' Boarding, ten girls expressed their desire to give their hearts to the Master and to receive baptism. Will you pray for these that they may find the Saviour very precious and remain true to Him.

Two of the girls were married this month and three more are to be married soon. Pray for these also that they may help in establishing ideal Christian homes and be a blessing in the community.

Sister Sarah Lapp has been touring the near villages with her Bible women. A number of times they took their food along and spent the whole day visiting villages. They attended a large yearly gathering in a bazaar and were able to sell many books. People seem more eager for Christian literature than they were formerly. Surely His Word will take root in some hearts.

#### DONDI

During the month we have had three cases of people who were badly scalded by the breaking of earthen cooking vessels. We have heard of three other cases who died from similar accidents.

Three weeks of January were spent in preaching the gospel in distant villages. The attendance and attention of the people good.

#### SANKRA

One of our fathers away from home for two hours and on his return he found that the Lord had presented him with a fine laddie. Bro. and Sis. Yunas are happy with this their sixth child.

Touring season is on and the evangelists have been out on two short tours. They will leave in another week for a three week's tour. Sister Smucker and myself, with the boys and one evangelist will leave on Jan. 31 for a two or three weeks' trip.

We are sorry to report that Sister Smucker was ordered to take complete rest for some time. To carry out these orders more

effectively we are all going to a place eight miles from home. She and the boys will live there quietly while I will be coming back and forth to look after the work of the station. I will spend the mornings with Bro. Harchand in the Balod district. I have been wanting to do this for some time so will combine doctor's orders with what we feel to be our duty in visiting the work that Bro. Harchand has been carrying on. Remember us and the work at Sankra.

#### GHATULA

Bro. and Sis. Vogt with two evangelists and one Bible woman, spent three weeks on tour in and near Kanker State. This was the second tour in that section so an interest and friendship is growing. One man expressed himself as wanting to know more about our Christ and showed a willingness to "try" Him as his Saviour. We hope he will not only "try" him but will believe on him fully and find Him a Saviour indeed.

Sister Minnie Kanagy has taken over charge of the Girls' Industrial School.

#### SHANTIPUR

The lepers have commenced carrying ground to repair the rice banks around the fields. Some of the men are also making bricks.

A four year old boy in one of our Christian homes, had his abdomen and chest burned by his clothing catching fire. He was taken to the hospital and is recovering nicely.

#### GENERAL

Sister Mary Wenger has been spending some time in the Women's hospital at Bilaspur. She underwent a minor operation and is now taking treatments for rheumatism.

Sister Kaufman and Kathryn spent two weeks in Nagpur where Kathryn took violet-ray treatments for eczema.

The following friends visited in the mission during January: Mr. and Mrs. Bollinger and three children, of the Brethren Mission in Gujerat; Mr. Himmelstrand, of South India; Miss A. B. Van Doren, of Nagpur; Mr. and Mrs. Davis and four children of Evangelical Mission.

Bro. and Sis. Beare and Allene spent a week visiting in the Free Methodist Mission in western India. Bro. and Sis. Lapp and Harriet spent a week visiting in the Evangelical and Disciples Missions in this area. In all of these places the problems concerning the Indian Church are similar to ours. The fellowship of the missionaries was enjoyed and it was encouraging to see the work they were doing.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, March, 1933. § No. 3.

## DHAMTARI

A number of missionary sisters gathered together at Sunderganj on Feb. 21, to open and divide the Pennsylvania box of dried fruit, corn and beans, also twenty-three cases of prunes, corn and other fruit from Oregon. It was a full day as there was a nice variety and a lot of fruit. It was carefully divided into shares so that each one received his or her proper portion.

The next day all over the mission could be seen cots, with the fruit on them, out in the sun in preparation for its being put away.

We appreciate the kind remembrance again of our Penna. and Oregon friends and are most thankful that they make it possible for us to enjoy this delicious fruit. It is enjoyed throughout the year and especially in the hot and rainy seasons when fresh fruit is scarce.

A request has come from the President of the Moham-medan Girls' School in Dhamtari for meetings to be held with their girls and women. They especially desire talks on health, the care of children, etc. The opportunity is very much appreciated since the call comes from them. Pray that much good may be done in this way.

The Christian women's Thursday afternoon meetings are well attended. Once a month the women sew for the poor, and at other meetings such subjects as; Temperance, Good Stewardship, Family Worship, and Signs of a true Christian, are discussed. On Feb. 23 they were happy to have Sister Sarah Lapp present in the meeting and they all wish her a safe voyage home and a profitable furlough in America.

On March 6, the boys of the Academy Senior Class will go to Raipur to take their Matriculation examination. There are ten boys, five of whom are Christians. They have been working hard and we pray they may be successful.

The Normal Class boys went to a village one day with Mr. Biswas to get some first hand experience of work in a village and in a village school.

The old High School building is being dismantled and as a result the school work is scattered in four different buildings. There are many boys in small class rooms, but, through

their present inconveniences they will all appreciate the new building so much more next year.

Chandan Kant Isa Buksh, the youngest son of Bro. Isa Buksh, passed away on Feb. 22. He was almost two years old. On Sunday he was at Church service with his mother, a fat, healthy looking baby, but three days later Jesus quickly called him to come and be with Him.

#### MEDICAL STATION

Dr. Troyer left on Feb. 16 for Bamdah, where he expects to get some practice in eye work under Dr. R. M. MacPhail, of the Scottish Mission.

Along with the new bungalow, which is being built at this station, work has been begun on a new group of wards. The idea in this group is to build separate houses rather than a group of wards which is sometimes objectionable to cast people. They do not care to have others too near where their food is cooking.

A woman formerly from Kanker, a native state south of us, but since her marriage living near Sankra, has had an abdominal operation and is recovering nicely. These people have heard much about Jesus and she says Jesus has healed her. They have Christian relatives but have not yet accepted Him.

#### BALODGAHAN

On Sunday Feb. 19 Bro. Lapp was present and gave communion to the congregation at this place. Three hundred and seventy-eight took part in this service.

On the same day ten precious souls were baptized. Three were girls from the Girls' Boarding, two from a Christian home and five were from the Widows' Home. The first five were young people while the latter were older. The five from the Widows' Home have spent the best part of their lives in sin and superstition. They worshipped gods of wood and stone until a few years ago when they came in contact with Christians. Pray for these dear people.

Quite a number of the widows have gone for a few days to visit among Hindu relatives. It means a great deal to the women to go back to their former villages and meet old acquaintances. It is a great opportunity for them to witness for Jesus.

#### SANKRA

The Smucker family spent all of February by the lake at Adamabad, where they had gone for a change and rest for Sister Smucker. We are happy to report that the rest has benefited her very much.

A young man, Silpatrao, who formerly lived in Dondi but is now living near Sankra, has shown signs of conviction and repentance. He has been told to accept Christ openly and be baptized, for only by doing so will he receive full salvation. Pray for him.

Another man, Kabilas, says he knows he is a sinner. He was a former orphanage boy who married and later left his wife and returned to Hinduism. His "kept wife" died recently, but he does not yet seem willing to return to his married wife. He was shown from God's Word what his duty to his wife and to God is. He confessed that he knew it was the truth for it came from the Bible. Pray that he may be willing to fully surrender his will to God.

The evangelists have been out on tour in a district east of south of Sankra. Bro. Smucker has been working with Bro. Harchand in Balod district.

#### DONDI

During the month of February the evangelists spent about three weeks in distant villages, preaching in from two to four villages each day. The people are more friendly and show more interest this year in the gospel message. There were more that said that there was nothing in idol worship and that they would worship the true God.

#### GHATULA

Ghatula has been unusually favored with guests this month. Dr. Troyer and his family, with Mary Holsopple, spent Feb. 9-10 there. At that time the majority of the Industrial School girls were given their physical examinations. Sister Troyer met with the Christian women and gave helpful suggestions on how to improve their Women's Meetings.

On the evening of Feb. 10 Bro. and Sis. Lapp, Harriet and Sister Sarah Lapp came for a short visit and to be present in the communion service on Feb. 12. One hundred and twenty-five partook of the sacred emblems in this service.

Bro. and Sis. Kniss and family also paid the station a short visit before leaving for America. Bro. Kniss preached on the morning of Feb. 19 and in the afternoon service, Sister Kniss spoke on "The Promise of the Holy Spirit."

A number of the Industrial School girls are leaving for homes of their own. On Feb. 13 there was a double wedding when two of the girls were married. A week later another one was married and one girl has gone to her home at Sankra to be married soon.



The three Ghatula evangelists left on Feb. 20 for a week of touring in the district to the east.

#### SHANTIPUR

Mr. A. Donald Miller, Sec'y for India, of the Mission to Lepers, spent Feb. 4-6 at Shantipur. He gave many helpful suggestions and also preached through an interpreter on Sunday afternoon. That evening he accompanied a party of leper men to a nearby village and was very much impressed by the way in which they sang the gospel message and by the attention paid to the singing by the people of the village.

Phulmat Bai, who left the asylum symptom free a year ago, and became the matron of the Girls' Industrial School at Ghatula, spent several days with us during the month. All the lepers were very happy to see her. We rejoice that she was able to leave the asylum and can now fill a large place in the lives of the girls at Ghatula.

#### FAREWELL MEETINGS

During the last week of the month a number of farewell meetings were held for those going to America. Bro. and Sis. Kniss, with Paul, Mark and Esther, Sister Sarah Lapp and Harriet Lapp sail from Bombay on March 6. Bro. and Sis. Beare and Allene will be leaving in April.

On the afternoon of Feb. 25 a farewell meeting for Harriet Lapp was held in the Shantipur Church. Bro. and Sis. Beare and Sister Sarah Lapp were also present and expressions of appreciation for their work were also given. At the close oranges and tea were served to all present.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26, a meeting was held in the Balodgahan Church at which a number of the members gave messages of appreciation for the love and labors of Bro. and Sis. Beare and Sister Lapp. That evening the whole congregation, and some guests, all ate together. There were about four hundred and seventy-five persons who partook of rice and curry. About four bushels of rice were cooked to feed the crowd.

On the evening of Feb. 28 the Girls' Boarding had a farewell meeting for Sister Sarah Lapp. After the meeting they all had a meal together.

At Mohadi the Christian community had a meal together before the Kniss family left the station.

May God bless each one of these leaving us, and give them a safe voyage to the homeland. May they be an inspiration and blessing to the Church at home.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, April 1933. § No. 4.

## EVANGELISTIC.

The Evangelistic Samaj had a meeting early in the month at which time some workers were transferred to different stations. It was also decided to build an evangelist's house on the Likma site so that evangelistic work can be commenced there. A committee was chosen to select the location for the house.

At Balodgahan a group of from twelve to twenty of the younger men have organized themselves into a singing band. For the last two months they have been meeting every evening to practice songs. Every Sunday evening they go to some village and there they sing the gospel story, and several short talks are given. This is a volunteer band, the members of which felt that they should help their pastor, Bro. Sukhlal, in his evangelistic work, and they have chosen this method of helping him. Pray that many may be brought to the Lord thru the message of song.

The Mohadi congregation had prayer meetings in the church every morning for a week. Then in the evening they went to a nearby village, visiting the same village each time so as to present the plan of salvation in regular order. They hope to follow the same plan in other villages later on. Remember their efforts in prayer.

## MEDICAL.

Dr. Troyer reports a very profitable time at Bamdah. During the two weeks he was there he performed 128 eye operations, of which 75 were cataracts.

Donald Miller, while playing one day, cut his left leg below the knee on a piece of tin. Antiseptic was at once applied and the wound was treated with the usual care. Several times he was taken to the hospital to make sure that it was healing properly. He seemed to be almost well when he began to have high fever. High fever at once suggests malaria, but this did not respond to quinine. After two days of fever, sometimes 104 F,

he was taken to the hospital. At this time a red, indurated area was visible at the site of the injury, which proved to be erysipelas. The high fever was then attributed to the streptococci having entered the blood stream. As Dr. Troyer had not yet returned from Bamdah, Dr. Whitcomb of the Evangelical Mission, seventy-five miles away, was called. He, in consultation with the Indian doctors here, thought he should be given anti-streptococcic serum, which treatment was begun at once. For six days his temperature remained at 104 and 103 F, with only two short drops below 100 F. In the meantime Dr. Troyer arrived. The Civil Surgeon was also called from Raipur for consultation. After Donald had received a total of 85 c. c. of the serum, a decided change was noticed and his temperature gradually came down. He left the hospital after fifteen days and in two more days was walking about. He still wears a bandage on the leg due to the fact that the wound was incised during the illness. We praise Him who directs in every emergency and gives to all grace and strength.

At Balodgahan two hundred and thirty persons were vaccinated for smallpox. At Shantipur thirty children were vaccinated. Most of these were school children who had been exposed to small-pox.

Since Sister Shantz is at Mohadi and the people know there is a nurse at the place, the number of patients has been increasing. A variety of cases are treated, such as, malaria, itch, colds, diarrhoea, sore eyes, cuts, syphilis, gonorrhoea and leprosy. A group of lepers come regularly every Thursday for treatments. Often some of the patients are sent to the Dhamtari hospital for more help than can be given in the dispensary. The past month two special cases came for daily treatment, one a ten year old orphan boy with large syphilitic sores and the other a Christian boy with an infected hand resulting from a cut.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The secular and Scripture examinations have been held in all the Mission Village Schools. The result of the secular examination in most of the schools was good. In a couple of the schools the attendance of the village children was irregular and as a result the percentage of passes was much lower. The results of the Scripture examinations were very satisfactory which proved the faithfulness of the teachers in daily teaching the children according to the course as outlined for them, and adapted to the needs of

the children. They learn Christian hymns, Bible verses, Bible stories and spiritual lessons from the instructions given them. As a result of years of such instruction in the village schools, the Gospel seed has been sown and is telling on the lives and attitudes of the village people. We wish that we might have more such schools in the mission area.

The Girls' and Boys' Primary Schools of Balodgahan have been united into one co-educational school with the hope that we may continue the co-education of boys and girls right up through our Mission Middle Schools. There are difficulties in the way but there are advantages which are being recognized more and more in India. The Dhamtari Mission Primary School has been co-educational for the past three years.

The Minister of Education of the Central Provinces recently visited our Normal School. He sent the following note:—

"I had great pleasure in visiting the Normal School and the information about the curriculum was very interesting. There can be no doubt that this is a very valuable experiment, and I think a teacher trained in this Normal School should be much better equipped than those trained in the other Normal Schools. Although it is premature to assess the results accurately, this is a move in the right direction.

I was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner and the Inspector and the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

I congratulate Mr. Miller and the Mission on this endeavor and wish them all success".

Signed, P. S. DESHMUKH,

*Minister of Education, C. P.*

#### GENERAL ITEMS.

Communion have been held in all the congregations. In five of the congregations there were baptisms previous to the communion service.

The small bungalow at Ghatula, which has been used as a teacher's house the last few years, is being repaired, and a new roof put on, for Sister Kanagy to occupy. It will bring her closer to the Industrial Home.

Bro. and Sis. Vogt have moved to Balodgahan to take Bro. and Sis. Beare's work. Sister Hartzler went to Ghatula on March 23 and will stay there with Sister Kanagy and have charge of Bro. and Sis. Vogt's work until the arrival of the Friesens when she will again return to Sankra.

The Sankra Christian community was visited by a destructive fire. Five houses were burned, two of them were destroyed with all their contents. One man's loss amounts to Rs. 300. There is strong evidence that the fire was of incendiary origin. A Hindu man had a grievance against the Christian man who suffered the greatest loss.

The Dondi congregation is constructing a church building which will be partly of brick and partly of mud walls. Some semi-permanent hospital wards are also being built at that station and a wall around the hospital compound. Some well diggers are deepening the bungalow well which goes dry every hot season.

Sister Hostetler with her three children and Nortell, Dana and Annabelle Troyer left for Darjeeling on March 6.

Sister Kaufman and Sister Smucker and their families, with Thelma Miller, left for Landour on March 12.

On the evening of March 19 some of the Hindu farmers of Balodgahan made a meal of rice and curry and bread for Bro. and Sis. Beare and Allene. The food was served on leaf plates and they all sat down and ate together on the bank of the Balodgahan reservoir.

The Beare family will leave Balodgahan on April 4 and will sail from Calcutta on April 7. May the Lord grant them a safe voyage to the homeland.



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, May 1933. § No. 5.

## THE RESURRECTION.

Since the Gospel of the Resurrection has been proclaimed, life and immortality have been brought to light. We are no longer left to infer that men may rise and live in the Hereafter. It is enough to say that a Man has risen, and He, the second Adam, the representative Man, the type to which man is being conformed. And therefore, as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ not only established Christianity by putting the Divine seal on all that He had done and taught, but it filled the world with a new hope, and ecstasy of delight, a ravishment of joy, which were as great a contrast to the sad forebodings of Paganism, and to the uncertainty of religious teachers, as the flowers of May to the gloom of December. We are so accustomed to the assertions of Christianity that we find it difficult to realize how vast was the transformation it wrought on the outlook of the soul of man. Like the women, it had been gazing into a sepulchre, now it greeted the risen Christ, and shared His life.

We are risen with Christ in the thought and purpose of God, but we must open our natures wide to the Spirit of the Resurrection, the Holy Ghost, that He may conform us to the ideal Easter-life. The exceeding greatness of God's power that wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead to His own right hand, is waiting to do as much for us, but we must yield to it. It will enter and transform our spirits, then permeate our souls, and finally, when the Lord shall come, it will reach and vitalize our bodies, which will rise in the likeness of the Risen Lord: transformed from corruption to incorruption, from mortality to immortal youth.

F. B. MEYER.

## EASTER MEETINGS.

At all of the stations special Easter meetings were held—some in the evening and some in the morning, some every day during Passion Week, and some two or three days previous to Easter.

**GHATULA**—Early on Easter Sunday morning, before sunrise, groups of Christian men and women were wending their way to the cemetery for a short but impressive service. During the regular morning service special songs were sung and the one predominating thought throughout was, Christ the living Saviour. In the afternoon the Junior and Senior Young People's Meetings met together and Deacon Mukut gave us a message on, "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life," emphasizing that Jesus is the fountain of life. M. M.

**MOHADI**—On Easter morning at half past five our whole church community gathered in the compound where we enjoyed a half hour of fellowship with the Lord. Each one, except the small children, offered up a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonderful love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, in making possible the celebration of this day. S. J. H.

**SHANTIPUR**—Early morning prayer meetings were held a week previous to Easter. There was a service in the church on Good Friday morning and on Easter Sunday. On Sunday the lepers' singing band sang several Easter songs and the school children also sang an Easter song. F. H. L.

**SANKRA**—Sunrise prayer meetings were held every morning of the week preceding Easter. The various incidents of Jesus' life during that week were discussed. On Good Friday morning Bro. Kaufman brought a message on "Why Jesus had to die." It was full of the Spirit and was enjoyed by all. That same evening he spoke on "The Restoration to Power," basing his remarks on Peter's fall and restoration. On Sunday morning the pastor gave a message on "He will swallow up death victory." In the afternoon we had a lengthy program on "The Meaning of Easter." R. R. S.

**BALODGAHAN**—On Wednesday and Thursday of Passion Week sunrise prayer meetings were held in the Bethel Church. At the service on Good Friday morning Bro. Obed, the newly ordained deacon, preached his first sermon. On Easter morning almost the whole congregation went out to the cemetery for a sunrise prayer meeting. M. C. V.

**DONDI**—We had a new kind of Easter observance in Dondi. On Saturday I received an urgent call from a survey officer, who had been ill at Sambalpur, fifteen miles south of here, that I take him to his headquarters. As he was very sick and without a

doctor, I felt it was my duty to go. I hoped to get back home by three o'clock on Sunday afternoon. I found the road so bad that I did not get back until seven in the evening,—in time for a common meal with all the members of the church. At eleven o'clock on Sunday forenoon Sister Brunk and the Indian nurse were called to a confinement case in a village six miles away. They went in an ordinary ox cart accompanied by Bro. Luke. On the return journey the cart upset as they were coming down a steep bank into a river bed. They were thrown into the sand and all the straw from the cart, on which they had been sitting, fell on top of them. No one was any the worse for the fall. Because we were both away the Easter Program was postponed until Monday morning at eight o'clock. The children gave a very nice program. A. C. B.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Bro. Vogt took Bro. Beare and family to Raipur on April 4. By nine o'clock, when the trailer had been loaded, all the widows, and many of the village people, were at the bungalow to give the Beares farewell and to bid them God-speed. The people were loathe to see them go, yet they wanted them to return to America to meet their loved ones again. At the Boarding bungalow they said farewell to Sister Good, the teachers and the school girls. Sister Wenger went along to Raipur. At about three o'clock they left for Calcutta on the mail train. On April 7, as they were boarding the ship, they sent a farewell telegram to the missionaries.

Deacon Mukut is busily engaged in putting up two evangelist's houses at Likma. He, with his family, will move to that station about July 1.

The Christian Women's Thursday afternoon meeting, at Ghatula, is well attended. For the hot season they are meeting groups and are studying the book of Genesis.

The Industrial School girls are preparing the field for the coming year. One girl from the school left for Balodgahan on April 13 and will be married soon.

During the last week of March and the beginning of April the Mohadi congregation had a prayer meeting in the church every morning at six o'clock. In the evenings evangelistic meetings were held in the village of Mohadi. The people of that village, as a whole, are rather indifferent to the gospel message, but there has been some evidence since that the efforts put forth among them have made an impression on some. Prayer is being made that there may be some fruit. The following week one evening was spent in the village of Koragaon, where, Bro. Raghua and

his family are stationed. The people listened very attentively and showed signs of serious consideration. During the third week of April a series of similar meetings were held in the village of Belora, a half mile from the bungalow. "Frequently, as we passed through one part of the village on our way to the meeting place, people, and especially the women, asked us to stop there for a meeting. Women cannot go far from their homes to meetings at night. The last evening the subject was to be the events related to the second coming of Christ, followed by testimonies by various ones of our group on "What Christ means to me." When we got to the meeting place we found that the Police Inspector was there and had called all the men together to investigate a case of horse stealing. So we went back to one of the places where they had often asked us to stop. There we had a meeting with the women who seldom have such an opportunity. This meeting was for them especially and it seems the Lord took this way of directing them to us, so that they could hear the message. Frequently men are ready to accept Christ, but the women, not having had the opportunity of hearing all the men have received, prevent the step."

#### HOT SEASON PERSONALS.

The following are spending the hot season in Darjeeling; Dr. Troyer and family, Bro. Vogt and family, Sister Hostetler and children, Mary Holsopple and Mary Wenger.

In Landour are Bro. Miller and family, Bro. Smucker and family and Sister Kaufman and Kathryn.

Bro. and Sis. Lapp are spending their vacation in Ootacamund, South India.

Those remaining on the plains are caring for the work as follows:

Bro. and Sis. Brunk beside their work in Dondi, are responsible for the roadside clinic work at Sankra.

Sister Hartzler has gone to Ghatula to be with Sister Kanagy until the Friesen family arrive in India.

Bro. Hostetler is staying at the Medical Station and is seeing to the building of the nurse's bungalow beside looking after the work at Shantipur.

Sister Shantz has gone to Balodgahan where she and Sister Good are responsible for the work of the station.

Bro. Kaufman is staying at home in Dhamtari, and, beside his own work, is also looking after Bro. Miller's work.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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## DHAMTARI

There has been quite a lot of rain during May so that the temperature has not gone as high as usual. On May 15 the thermometer registered only 75, when one is accustomed to have it register anywhere from 110 to 115 at that time of the year. The frequent rains have retarded some of the building work.

The trusses are being put on the new academy building and it is hoped that the entire roof will be on by the time the monsoons commence, in the middle of June.

The Carpentry School began its annual vacation of one month from the 16th of May. The annual examinations were held in April. There were five candidates and all of them passed.

Seven out of ten matriculation candidates of the Academy passed this year—a very satisfactory result.

Because of school vacation, the dormitory boys of Dhamtari are widely scattered. Some went for a few weeks and some went for the entire two months of vacation. All will come again at the beginning of July.

Two gentlemen from Calcutta—one a retired station master—a European, and the other an Anglo-Indian, started business here at Dhamtari. We were interested to know how they will succeed as it has some bearing on the possibility of missionaries undertaking their own support by similar methods. They closed their business on May 19, and will do their future purchases through agents at Dhamtari and carry on in Calcutta. One of the men withdrew from the company.



## GHATULA

A woman, who had been a village convert, and who later had to be disciplined, was again received into church fellowship and is showing by her daily life that she is trying to live a true Christian life.

The building work being done by Bro. Mukut at Likhma is progressing nicely. The roof timber is being put on one house. The well is ready to be walled up.

## DONDI

Four boys from the academy spent the month of May at Dondi helping in special meetings in the villages. Attentive crowds listened to the messages and practically all the people in the villages came to the meetings. Pray for this work, it is very encouraging.

Building work on the church is progressing nicely.

The leper work in the Sankra district requires considerable time each week.

## BALODGAHAN

During the last week of April, just before the school girls went home for the hot season vacation, Bro. Brunk held a series of evangelistic meetings with the girls. He also taught a class of the older girls in the method of telling Bible stories to the village people. It was a time of refreshing to all. Many of the girls gave testimony to the blessings they had received. Most of them gave expression to a desire to live closer to Master.

About sixty girls are remaining in the Boarding for the hot season. Among them are the girls who have been away during the school year for Bible, teacher and nurse's training. It is a great pleasure to have them and they are very helpful. They take a special interest in the orphan girls.

The older girls are assisting in the village Sunday Schools and are enjoying it very much.

## SHANTIPUR

Within a few days time Shantipur experienced two tragedies. A leper man, who had become discouraged and without hope, hanged himself. Several days later, Yeremiah, one of the untainted boys, took the bucket and rope and went to the well to draw water. It was at noon when all the people were in their houses so no one saw him at the well. He must have slipped and fallen into the water. He was not missed until evening, and, after a general search, his body and the bucket were found in the bottom of the well. He was a bright boy, had passed his Primary examination and was going to Dhamtari to attend Middle School in July. He was thirteen years old and was baptized at Christmas time. He was the brightest boy in Sunday School. His mother, who is a leper, is living in Calcutta. He has a younger brother in the Shantipur Boarding and an older sister in the Industrial School at Ghatula.

## LANDOUR

Landour is usually dry and dusty during the months of May and June, but this year there has been a good deal of rain. As a result it has been much cooler than usual, so much so that it was difficult to keep warm without a charcoal fire.

Going to the hills serves purposes other than avoiding the heat of the plains. It is a time when we get our shoes resoled, when we purchase necessary new clothing, get our teeth fixed, and our bodies and spirits toned up for another year of service. We are glad for the services of a good American dentist in Landour. We are also grateful for the new community hospital. This was started a few years ago for the benefit of the missionaries and Indians living on the hill, and is an excellent example of the good spirit of the community. Different missions loan their doctors for periods of service. Two European nurses, beside an Indian doctor and nurse, are also on the staff.

Another blessing of the hills is the opportunity it affords for Christian fellowship. Missionaries miss greatly the inspiration of annual Mission Board meetings, and Church and

Sunday School conferences. On account of this we are especially inspired by the Sunday services. The church is crowded to the doors fifteen minutes before time for the service to begin. The singing of this large group of missionaries from many lands, and the common spirit of being engaged in a common task is conducive to a real spirit of worship.

#### OOTACAMUND

A convention for the deepening of spiritual life was held the second week in May. The general subject was "The Miracles of Christ as related to the Kingdom of God." The talks were very inspiring and were a means of heartening tired and discouraged missionaries. The meetings were very well attended and the interest throughout was excellent.

#### DARJEELING

The missionaries in Darjeeling were privileged to attend very profitable convention meetings from May 22 to 25 inclusive. The speaker was Mr. A. I. Garrison, of the Christian Alliance Mission, Berar, western India. The text for the convention was Acts 1:1. Each day the morning studies were from the gospel of Luke and the evening ones were from Acts. The doings and teachings were taken alternately each day.

Bro. and Sis. King, from Hesston, Kansas, who have spent several years in the Philippines as teachers, arrived in India the last week of May and went at once to Darjeeling to spend some time with the missionaries there. Beside our seven missionaries, there are also some General Conference Mennonite missionaries in Darjeeling this year, so one day an all-Mennonite picnic was held in honor of the Kings. Bro. and Sis. King plan to leave Darjeeling on June 4 and visit places of interest in north India and then go on to Landour for a week's stay, after which they will visit Dhamtari. Such visits are few and far between so they are very much appreciated by the missionaries.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

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The following advertisement appeared in a recent newspaper and made us feel that we were not so far away from America :

## OVERSEAS TELEPHONE SERVICE.

It is hereby notified for general information that the Anglo-Indian Telephone service is extended to Nagpur, Akola and Amaraoti with effect from the 15th June 1933. Calls to places in Europe, America, Africa and other foreign countries can be made from the following places in Central Provinces and Berar. 1. Nagpur, 2. Akola, 3. Amaraoti, 4. Wardhaganj, 5. Raipur. Detailed instructions regarding rates and other particulars will be available from the Telephone Exchanges and Public Call Offices at these places.

The rates, no doubt, are still very high but it gives one a feeling of nearness to the home folks to know that it would be possible to speak with them in case of necessity.

## PERSONALS

By the end of June all the missionaries had returned from the hills except Sister Kaufman and Bro. and Sis. Smucker. Bro. Smucker and Arthur had to spend some time in the Landour hospital, taking treatments for amoebic dysentery.

Bro. and Sis. Hostetler returned from Darjeeling on June 23, with two children, having left John in school. The rains had begun previously so the only way to get to Mohadi was by the trolley on the small tram line which passes the bungalow. Arrangements had previously been made for the trolley, so they

came by bus from Raipur to Kurud where the transfer to the trolley was made. One car was used by the family and the other for the luggage. Each car was pushed by three coolies. At the Mahanadi River the luggage had to be carried over about a quarter mile of sand to the hollow-log ferry. Last of all they carried over the heavy trolley. After an hour and a half everything was again on the trolleys and they soon arrived at Mohadi. The train does not run on that line from June to November and the rails across the river bed are taken up.

Bro. and Sis. Lapp spent five days visiting with the Mennonite Brethren missionaries in South India, on their way home from Ootacamund.

On July 1 Bro. Kaufman and Sister Dora Shantz left for Landour. Bro. Kaufman will be gone a month. Sister Shantz expects to stay for two months of language study.

On June 27 the Friesen family arrived in Dhamtari. All the missionaries were glad to welcome them back to India. They are now located at Ghatula station. Pray that they may be much used of the Lord in that district.

A few hours before the arrival of the Friesens, Bro. and Sis. S. M. King, of Hesston, Kansas, also arrived in Dhamtari. Their stay will be all too short for they will have only seventeen days with us. They are visiting the out-stations first, while the roads are dry. They will be sailing from Colombo for America during the third week of July. Their visit is very much appreciated.

### SCHOOLS

The first day of July saw boys and girls headed for their respective Boardings—the boys toward Dhamtari and the girls toward Balodgahan. The schools opened the first week in July. The boys and girls all seemed eager to get back to school again. We pray that this year may mean much to the teachers and students and that the Lord may be honored in their lives.

The village schools opened early in June. Pray that the teachers may feel their responsibility to the children coming from non-Christian homes, and that they may so present the gospel to the children that they may be won for the Master who loves them.

The Shantipur school is composed of the Christian children from Shantipur and the non-Christian children from two other villages. On the first day of school only the boys from one village came so the teacher sent several of them to the other village to tell those boys to come. Those boys said they would come if Christian boys came to call them. They did not believe these boys. Quite a testimony for the Christian boys.

At Dondi a good sized group of Hindu boys have been coming every evening to play with the children of the Christian community. The difference in the strength and physical vitality of the Christian and non-Christian children is very noticeable. Our Christian children may be stronger because of better food and more regular habits of life. They also are more free from disease.

### LEPER NEWS

The attendance at the Sankra wayside clinics was not very good for the first week or so after the rains began. Some people could not come because of high water in the streams and others had to help sow the rice crop. The last Wednesday in June fifty lepers were treated at Sikosa and twenty other patients. That was considered a good attendance for this time of the year.

The number of inmates at Shantipur is steadily increasing. The present number is 256. On the last treatment day two-hundred and one injections were given.

### THE WEATHER

The weather has been an important subject of conversation. The hot season was exceptionally cool because of frequent rains. The Indians say there was no hot season this year.

The monsoon broke earlier than usual too. It was hard to tell when the hot season ended and the monsoon began. It seems to have begun on the evening of June 9 for the rain was accompanied by high wind. The following morning it was discovered that some of the corrugated iron roofing had blown off the new nurse's bungalow at the Medical Station, and that the tile were gone from a number of the buildings. So the carpenters and coolies had more work for a few days. The excessive rain also caused some of the masonry at the new Academy building to give way. No serious damage was done.

This is the time of the year when we find out whether our bungalow roofs shed all the water or not.

#### MENNONITE REFUGEES

We have been accustomed to hearing of Mennonite refugees who had escaped from Russia thru China and other countries. About the beginning of this month some also arrived in India. They escaped over the south-eastern border of Russia and came across the mountains, thru Afghanistan, to north-west India. They had written to Rev. P. A. Penner, of Champa, asking for money to be sent to the border for them. Some money was sent to missionaries working near the border and the news has now come that the Mennonites have arrived in British territory after undergoing many hardships. They are likely on their way to Champa now. We have not heard how many are in the party. We hope they all came thru alive.

#### LARGE FAMILIES

The following news item appeared in the last number of our Hindi paper, The Mennonite Church News:

“Siodi and Bhatgaon villages have been included in the Meradev congregation and for this reason the membership has increased. The families of the Meradev congregation are plenty big, as follows:

Bro. Persadi has 9 children

Bro. Mohan has 8 children

Bro. Sukrit has 8 children

Bro. Sukhlal has 6 children.”



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, August 1933. § No. 8.

They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick. *Mark 2:17.*

I was sick and ye visited me. *Matt. 25:36.*

I should like to give you a glimpse of some of our recent in-patients in the Balodgahan dispensary wards.

Govind, a man has not been able to work for about three years. He was in a very bad physical condition. With about three weeks of treatment he has greatly improved.

A little boy with inherited syphilis, so bad that his nasal nes are already breaking down.

A boy, about ten years of age, is the size of a six year old. He had a sore on his left cheek, and, because he had no medical treatment, the whole cheek sloughed away leaving both the upper and lower set of teeth exposed to the end of the jaw. He has a large spleen and is suffering from malaria and is so emaciated that he looks like a famine waif. It is difficult for him to eat or drink without cheek or lips on one side of his mouth.

A boy about fourteen years old, has had tubercular sores in his back and hip bones for at least six years. His people are very happy with the improvement they see in him since he came here.

Four of the Boarding girls were taken in to Dhamtari for tonsil operations this week. They are getting along nicely. MARY WENGER.

For some time we have been having a woman in the ward who was badly burned on her lower limbs. This happened while she was out in a village. Her home is in Dhamtari. Fifteen days after the accident she was brought to the hospital. Her wounds have been responding rapidly to treatment and she will soon be going home. Her husband ran away some time ago and she is now living with her widowed mother. Her bills are being paid regularly, not by a relative, but by a "Flower brother". This is a Hindu custom of exchanging flowers as a pledge of eternal friendship. It is rather surprising to find this relation between those of opposites sexes in this country.

Last week one day a man was brought to us from the Balodgahan area. For some time he had been draining pus from inside his mouth. The poison from this pus had gone thru his body and had made him very weak. The odor was terrible. His hearing had been affected and he was unable to hear the story of Jesus during the short time he was here for he died after a few days.

Our ignorant patients sometimes have difficulty in understanding the difference between medical and surgical cases. Just now we have two near relatives who are such. The other day the medical case begged to be given a room near his relative in the surgical ward. As a matter of fact his disease is such that it would be very inadvisable to allow him to contaminate a surgical ward.

MARY J. HOLSOPPLE.

The rainy season is a hard time of year for the lepers. Last week, because of heavy rain, not more than half the usual number came to the clinics. Some rivers were so high they could not cross, and those who must walk eight or ten miles could not come thru the rain. The work in the dispensary is about as usual. Many patients come with colds and coughs.

Several weeks ago a call came from Jagdalpur, 135 miles south of us, in a native state, for some one to come and help care for an elderly lady. I was asked to go. This state is ruled by an Indian queen and she has an English doctor to care for her and her family. At present she with her family and the doctor are in England. This elderly lady, eighty years old, was the mother of the doctor. His car was sent for me, with Indian men as drivers. It was raining and the roads were wet and, with drivers whom I did not know, I was not sure just how I would reach my destination. We left at 11:30 at night and drove the rest of the night, stopping at a rest house at 4:30 for a cup of tea. We arrived at a big river at seven o'clock. This was only a mile from the bungalow I was to go to. The river was high and the car could not cross, so I waited until a car was brought to the other side, and then crossed the river in two long boats tied together. I arrived at the bungalow soon after eight in the morning. The patient was in a very bad condition and passed away at one o'clock that afternoon. The Methodist missionaries living there had helped care for her. She gave a testimony that she was ready to go. I stayed with the missionaries for several days and came back when the car was sent to Dhamtari again. We are glad to help wherever we can and there are always opportunities for doing good. Pray for the sick and for those of us who care for them. ADA HARTZLER

#### DHAMTARI.

This year there are 256 boys enrolled in the Middle School and Academy. They are classified as follows: Middle School, 192; High School, 43; Bible Class, 12; Normal School, 18. The Primary School, which has both boys and girls, has an attendance of 168. Most of the classes are large and the teachers are kept busy.

Because of some of the burdens of the Sunderganj congregation, our pastor spent three days in fasting and prayer during the past week. Pray that he may be blessed and upheld in the work of this congregation. It is a difficult task and he feels his responsibility.

On Sunday, July 23, communion services were held. Bro. P. A. Friesen and family were present for the service. Next Sabbath all the Sunday School children will have a part in the service. New babies will also be consecrated in this meeting.

On Thursday afternoon, July 27, thirty-eight sisters of the Sunderganj congregation met to clean the church. All enjoyed the afternoon in a social way and the results of the few hours' work were quite noticeable. When the work was finished a short song and praise service was held. Next Sabbath day we shall all appreciate a clean place of worship.

Pray for the homes in the Christian community which are unhappy; that instead of strife and ill-will, love and good-will may radiate to those about them.

RUTH MILLER.

#### BALODGAHAN.

The Girls' Middle School opened on July 5. The girls are happy to be at their school work again. We have no matron in boarding this year. An elderly woman, who, although illiterate, is one of the most beautiful Christian characters I know, is with the girls. She is a real mother to them. The teachers assist in the work and the plan of self-government is working very satisfactorily. It is indeed a pleasure to work with the nice group of leaders which we have among our girls.

MARY M. GOOD.

On July 9, six new babies, by their parents, and one child, by its widowed mother, were given to God publicly in prayer in a special consecration service.

Bro. Friesen made a short stop in Balodgahan and conducted prayers one morning with the widows. A few of the widows could hardly keep back the tears when they recalled the happy memories they had of the time Bro. and Sis. Friesen had charge of several of them at Sankra. Bro. Vogt then took Bro. Friesen home to Ghatula and did not get back until the next noon, after having plenty of experience with mud, heavy rain and high water.

Because of the rains the Balodgahan men are not going to the surrounding villages in the evenings to do their voluntary evangelistic work, which was under the direction of their Indian pastor. They will get together to practice songs, etc., so we trust that the work will be continued when the weather is more favorable.

Sister Troyer was here to help renew interest in the women's meetings. It was decided to have meetings for the Christian women on Sunday afternoons, in the old church building. Groups had been meeting outside in front of different homes but this had to be discontinued because of the rains.

ESTHER VOGT.

#### GHATULA.

On June 29, we were agreeably surprised when Bro. George Lapp drove in, bringing Sister Friesen and their three children. Bro. Friesen remained in Dhamtari to attend several committee meetings and arrived a few days later. We are grateful to a kind

Heavenly Father that the way opened for their return to labor in this part of His vineyard.

On June 28, Sister Hartzler left for Sankra where she will again have charge of the dispensary and clinic work.

Bro. Mukut and his family moved to Likhma on July 7th. Sister Sonai Bai has been the Ghatula nurse for the past eleven years. She has a dispensary now in Likhma. Bro. Simeon and Sister Dhanai Bai are also living in Likhma and are doing evangelistic work.

The girls of the Industrial School are busy weeding rice and working in their gardens. More rain is needed to finish plowing the rice.

Many people in this locality are suffering from severe sore eyes. A number have had colds, coughs and fever.

Sister Friesen and the children left Dhamtari for Landour on July 25. The children will attend school there. She stayed with them three days then returned home again. MINNIE KANAG

#### SANKRA.

On our arrival from the hills on July 7, we found all going well at Sankra. In our absence two new arrivals made two homes very happy. Bro. and Sis. Tijou are specially happy with their new daughter, Etheline, since their first child did not stay with them. Bro. and Sis. John Kisun welcome their daughter, Ethel, since their other child is a boy of four.

We are very happy to state as well that the other day an enquirer came requiring baptism. He is under instruction now and we ask your prayers for him.

The young man, Sukhram, who was baptized last March, is very happy in his Christian life. He is very faithful in attending church services and seems to be progressing nicely in his Christian growth. R. R. SMUCKER.

#### SHANTIPUR.

Communion was held with the Shantipur congregation on July 10th, at which time one soul was received into the church by baptism. Bro. and Sis. King were with us over this week end and had the privilege of communing with us.

On July 30th, four baby girls were publicly consecrated. Public consecration of children makes their coming into the home sacred to our Christian families. It also helps to stimulate a stronger family relationship in the community.

On Saturday, July 29, the headmasters and mistress of the Primary Schools met at the Shantipur bungalow to talk over Bible courses, and school and village activities. We are so thankful to the Lord for their interest in teaching the scriptures to the school children. The teachers reported that the children from the village non-Christian homes remember the Bible stories and lessons longer than their other lessons. GEO. J. LAPP.



# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, September 1933. § No. 9.

## MENNONITE REFUGEES.

In the July number of the Mission News reference was made to a Mennonite group who had escaped from Russia into India. It was only one family and they are now living at Champa, C. P. They came by way of Kulja, Kashgar, Gilgit and Kashmir. The name of the family is Dick. The husband is about twenty-nine years of age and the wife is near the same age. With them was their seven year old daughter and, shortly after their arrival in Champa, another daughter was born. They had terrible experiences along the way and were in danger of bandits and robbers. We praise God for their safe arrival. They have a number of relatives in Canada and efforts are being made to get permits for this family to go to Canada.

## MEDICAL STATION.

There are thirty-two Christians living at the medical station. Among them are a number of faithful Christian workers.

Well attended prayer meetings are held on the hospital verandah each Wednesday afternoon. Non-Christians also come and often the attendance numbers forty and fifty.

The women have also organized a women's meeting which meets every Thursday afternoon. On Aug. 24 a special invitation was given to neighboring non-Christian women and about forty came. The invitations had to be limited because there was not enough room to seat many. A number of songs were sung for them and a Bible story was told. After that peanuts and dried fruit (uncooked) were served and a social visit was had with the guests. On Aug. 31 the meeting time will be spent in sewing.

Bro. Smucker was a patient in the European Ward from Aug. 20 to 29 with typhoid fever. It was a mild attack and he had most of his fever before he went to the hospital.

During part of the month the Indian wards were full and overflowing. Now some of the rooms are empty again. The rush was partly due to the fact that a Hindu festival had just passed and people again remembered their sick. The rice weeding is also about finished and people have more time to come to the hospital.

A kind brother in America wanted to do some printing for the hospital so he printed some forms on which the Indian workers can keep records of their Christian work as carried on among

the patients. They have been used for the first time during the month of August. Our prayer is that this work may be carried on in love and true concern for those of other religions, that we might be able to bring them to the feet of Jesus.

#### DHAMTARI.

The Sunderganj congregation is undergoing a severe test at present. We believe that right and justice will prevail and that thru it all God's name will be glorified. Let us pray that the enemies of the cause of Christ may be brought to the feet of the Saviour.

The Inspector of Schools recently stepped, unannounced, into one of the Academy Bible classes to see how the so called "Conscience Clause" is working. This Government rule provides that no Hindu or Mohammedan in mission schools is obliged to take the Scripture courses if he does not desire to do so. The Inspector found all the non-Christian students voluntarily present and taking a keen interest in the discussion. He learned that the non-Christians desire Christian teaching.

In the beginning of the month Sister Kaufman was confined to her bed for some days. At the close of the month Bro. Miller is in bed suffering from stomach trouble. Pray for all of your missionaries, that they may have the needed strength for their work.

#### GHATULA.

Communion was observed on Aug. 6. One-hundred and two partook of the sacred emblems. Others could not be present because of high water.

Sister Kanagy and Bro. Friesen have both had a week of fever during the month. We are glad to report that they are back in the work again.

Bro. Mukut and his family, who moved to Likhma station last month, are getting along nicely and are enjoying the work.

The wards have been full of patients most of the time. Some come from a distance and must be fed as well as treated.

Many cattle in the neighborhood have died of cowpox and perhaps it is for this reason that the big animals of the jungle have been especially friendly. They make frequent calls in the compound and sometimes come very early in the evening.

#### MOHADI.

Everyone will be glad to have Sister Dora Shantz return again on Sept. 8 to take care of the medical work. She has been gone from Mohadi since the latter part of April when she went to Balodgahan for the hot season and then to Landour for two months in Language School.

Some time ago two boys, one a Brahmin and the other of the Raut caste, came and asked to have some English lessons. Sister Hostetler

told them she would give them an hour every afternoon if they came to the bungalow. Others became interested and now there are six, three Hindus and three Christians. They have been coming every day for four weeks, sometimes even thru heavy rain. Several of them learn very readily. Recently the use of the Parables of Jesus, put into very simple sentences, was begun. They are also learning a few simple children's songs. It is hoped that the non-Christians will be drawn to Christ thru this daily contact and teaching.

Little Lois Hostetler had not been very well for several days with bowel trouble and fever. The Christian children are having whooping cough and Sister Hostetler is trying to keep Lois from coming in contact with them, but it is difficult as some of them live very close to the bungalow.

The two Bible women go to the surrounding villages daily to teach. We are glad to see the interest that some of the young married Christian women show in the work. They often accompany the Bible women to the villages and help in singing and speaking. They do this voluntarily, without any urging, and seem to be happy to give of their time and talent in this way. This is the kind of offering that is pleasing to the Lord of the Harvest.

#### SANKRA.

Bro. Smucker had high fever for several days. At first it was thought to be malaria. The fever did not respond to treatment so he was taken to Dhamtari where it was diagnosed as typhoid. We are thankful to God that he improved nicely and after ten days was able to return home where he is trying to avoid a relapse.

Communion has not yet been observed. It was postponed once because of high streams and twice because of Bro. Smucker's illness.

On August 30 Bro. Naresh died after suffering from tuberculosis for a number of years. He leaves a widow and seven children. The oldest son is married and is employed in the Dondi dispensary as a helper.

Your continued prayers are desired in behalf of those who are requesting baptism.

#### SHANTIPUR.

There have been several Hindu festivals during the month, and, as a part of the celebrations, two wealthy shopkeepers in Dhamtari have given gifts of food to the lepers. One man gave rice, lentils, spices, etc. uncooked. The other man brought bread, cooked lentils and vegetables, and three big baskets of sweets. The lepers appreciate such gifts. The Hindus give gifts to the poor to gain merit from their gods. Their religion is a religion of works.

## BALODGAHAN.

Bro. Sukhlal and Bro. Vogt left Aug. 28, for Chikli, to spend the week working with the evangelists there. They had some difficulty in getting their things across the river as the water was up to their hips.

Sunday School Day was observed on Aug. 20. Each of the various departments of the Sunday School furnished a song.

On Aug. 13, three-hundred and fifty-one persons partook of communion. Bro. Lapp preached the communion sermon.

Sister Wenger has not been so well. She had several fainting spells in the last few days and is to have a complete rest for some time.

Recently Sister Good spent several days at Sankra for a much needed rest.

## DONDI.

On rainy days classes have been held with the Christian workers at which time a series of twenty-four outlines for talks have been discussed. The classes have been very interesting and helpful.

A patient, with typhoid fever, sent to the dispensary for medicine but after taking one dose, he returned the rest of the medicine as he did not want to pay for it. He died later.

Sister Brunk has been making daily visits to several homes in Dondi where there were very sick patients.

Communion was observed on Sunday Aug. 27.

## A YOUNG GIRL'S TESTIMONY.

The following testimony appeared in the August number of the Mennonite Church News:

### What Can I As A School Girl Do For Jesus?

"As I have opportunity I can witness for Jesus. When I was at home (Mohadi) during hot season vacation I saw my mother, who is a Bible woman, going to the villages. I had a desire to witness for Jesus, so every day I went with her and saw how she meets with the women and how she talks to them, and it appealed to me very much. I helped in singing and, as there was opportunity, I gave my testimony. I did this for two weeks and received many blessings and much strength, for Jesus helped me.

Because of this experience, I am sure that we young girls can also bear witness for Jesus. While we are in school we can testify and can also tell the good news to those who do not know Him. I trust that I may always be a witness for Him."

JESSIE BISAHU (Age 18)

(A High School Senior.)

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, October 1933. § No. 10.

## DHAMTARI.

On Sunday, Sept. 10, two women accepted Jesus as their Saviour and were baptized. Their names are Kariman and Dheliya. Kariman had been a Hindu but later became a Mohammedan, at which time she was given her present name. She is related to one of our Christian families. Both these women have been living among Christians for some time so they know more about Christianity than many new converts do. Pray for them that they may remain faithful to Christ to the end.

On Sept. 19, a young widow and a widower were married. Bro. Premdayal is a new Christian but Sister Martha was born in a Christian home and has received special Bible training. She has a great responsibility in helping her husband in his spiritual growth. Pray for this family that they may progress in Christ's Kingdom.

The members of the Christian Endeavour of the Sunderganj Congregation are trying to make their meetings more interesting by having new features. Recently many of the members took their food and went to the bank of the Mahanadi River and had a meeting there. We felt as though we were on the banks of the Sea of Galilee getting spiritual and physical food. We felt that our Saviour was present. Next Sunday the different departments are going to furnish new songs set to Indian tunes. This is being done to create a greater interest in Hindustani tunes.

JOHN HAIDAR, *Pastor.*

Bro. Miller has been advised by the doctors to go away from his work for a while to recuperate his health. They left on Oct. 3 for Adamabad where they expect to stay for some time on the banks of the lake. We trust he may be much benefitted by the rest. The work on the Academy building has been closed down for the present. Bro. Kaufman is looking after the remainder of his work during his absence.

## MEDICAL STATION.

From Aug. 20 to Oct. 2, with the exception of nine days, there have been patients in the European Ward. Due to this circumstance Sister Holsopple has not been able to give much

attention to the work in the hospital. However the Lord has given the hospital a dependable staff and He does not let the work suffer.

The fame of the hospital is spreading farther and farther. Relatives tell other relatives in other towns, and so they come to us after native doctors have tried and failed. May they receive the water of life as well.

#### BALODGAHAN.

The school girls are at present having their quarterly examinations. After the examination they will have a week's leave when those who have parents living nearby will go to their homes. The health among the girls has been very good for which we are thankful. We have had to have several tons operations again. Aside from that and a few cases of malaria, they have been well. The room that has been set aside as a prayer room this year is a blessing to the girls. We are glad to see them forming the habit of the morning watch.

On the 17th of Sept. Leper Sunday was observed in a number of our churches. Bro. A. David, caretaker of the Leper Asylum, gave a very good talk to the Balodgahan congregation on work among the lepers. An offering amounting to nearly twenty-four rupees was received for work among these unfortunate people.

Sister Wenger is spending several weeks in Mohadi recuperating. We trust she will soon be able to take up her duties again.

#### MOHADI.

After an absence of four months Sister Shantz is back at Mohadi again. She is happy to be back in the work. The number of patients is growing. One day there were eighteen who came for treatment. During the month the weather and the high water affected the attendance.

After a three days' rain, when the river was very high, it was thought best to take Maryann Hostetler to Dhamtari to Dr. Troyer. She had continued fever for several days and a very bad cough which was not responding to treatment. Dr. Troyer diagnosed her case as flu and bronchitis. At times like this the distance from an out-station to Dhamtari seems far, but the river crossing was safely made in a boat. However vehicles were changed five times between Mohadi and Dhamtari, and at one stage of the trip, Bro. and Sister Hostetler and a servant took turns carrying Maryann for about a mile. We praise the Lord that she soon recovered from her illness and was none the worse for the long journey.

Sister Shantz went to Raipur on Sept. 20, to take her second year oral language examination. She was happy to pass this examination. Dr. Gass, of the Raipur Evangelical Mission, and Bro. Kaufman were the examiners. The written examination will take place about Oct. 18.

#### SANKRA.

While Bro. Smucker was still recuperating from his attack of typhoid, Sister Smucker went down with the same malady and had to spend some time in the European Ward in Dhamtari. In answer to prayer and thru the efforts of the hospital staff and Sister Hartzler, she is recovering nicely. The attacks in both cases proved to be light and of short duration. Thanks be to God for His great mercy.

Due to excessive rains, snakes have not been so plentiful around Sankra. Nevertheless some narrow escapes were reported. One person, just ready to sit down in a reed chair, saw a snake stick his head out of the reeds near the bottom of the chair. The body of the snake was entirely concealed in the reeds. Another person saw a snake near the bed at bed time, and on seeing it move in the dim light of the lantern, decided it was a snake instead of a piece of thin rope as it was at first thought to be. At another time a man saw a snake at the head of his bed when he was ready to retire. Thinking it was a twig, he raised his foot to brush it away. Thru a God-given impulse the foot was checked in mid-air, and on close investigation it was found that his bare foot had nearly touched a small poisonous snake. The two other snakes were also of a deadly variety. We thank God for innumerable such deliverances.

Pray for a young Mohammedan who has come to Sankra and who wants to unite there and make his home there for the present. After he is established in the faith he wants to return to his home town. Another young man needs your prayers. He wants to be baptized. It is not clear yet whether he is in earnest as far as his soul is concerned or whether he is after a wife. Such problems do perplex when one does so want to believe them. But when their attitude is not consistent, one can only pray the harder that they may get a real conviction. Both are under instruction. Three men and one young woman, who are out of church, need your prayers.

#### GHATULA.

On Sept. 10, Bro. and Sister Friesen spent the day in Likhma. The two families living there were well and were very

happy to have guests. On Sunday morning a very impressive communion service was held on the front verandah of one of the homes. The workers there are happy and encouraged about the work as the people are interested in their message and welcome them there. Sonai Bai, the deacon's wife, is a nurse and every day a few people come to her for medicine.

These rainy days it has been hard for the missionaries to get out to the villages as the roads are so bad. On Sept. 19, the Bible women and Sister Friesen went to a village about seven miles away. The village people gave them a hearty welcome and listened to the messages. The Christian family that moved into that village a few months ago were especially glad to enjoy Christian fellowship again. The wife, Sister Rajkuwar, is teaching in a government Girls' School and has many opportunities to witness and to teach the better way. Pray for her.

#### SHANTIPUR.

There was a wedding in the Shantipur Church on Sept. 15. The daughter of the night watchman at the asylum was married to a young man from Dhamtari. Pray that this new home may radiate the Christ life.

The leper women have finished rice weeding. Those who weed and harvest the rice receive extra pay.

#### GENERAL.

During the month of September the following persons were guests of the missionaries: Miss Ennis, of the Disciples Mission, Bilaspur; Rev. and Mrs. P. W. Penner and Rev. and Mrs. F. Isaac, of the General Conference Mennonite Mission. Their visits and fellowship were appreciated.

The last week of the month was committee week. The Ministerial body met on the 27th; the Evangelistic Samaj on the 28th; and the Managing Committee on the 29th. Each committee had an all day session. During the week some smaller committees also met. These committees brought in a number of the out-station missionaries.

Pray for our committees—that during this time of financial depression, they may so plan for the work that it can still be carried on as usual even though less money is coming from America.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, November 1933. § No. 11.

## CHOLERA.

Cholera broke out in one of our Christian communities, in Dhamtari, at midnight of October 3rd. The first victim was very sick from the beginning. He soon became unconscious and lived in this serious condition for four days before he died. His little nine year old daughter took sick an hour after her father began and died twelve hours later.

Anti-cholera inoculations were arranged for and given to the entire community as soon as possible. Government provides these inoculations free of charge.

On October 4 there were two deaths, and, because the graves could not be prepared quickly enough, and the bodies could not be kept long in the homes, they were buried in the same grave.

After this there was one death per day until the 8th of October. On the 9th and 10th there were no new cases and all the afflicted were better, so we began to take heart, feeling that the epidemic had spent itself. But on the morning of the 13th three new cases were reported. They were all children and they were all very sick but God saw fit to spare their lives. On the 16th another child began with it and was so very sick that he died that same night and was buried at once—about midnight. On the 18th the second inoculations were given to those living in the infected areas. There were no new cases after the 16th.

We are indeed thankful to the government doctor, health officer and other municipal officers, for the wonderful way in which they took hold of things and helped during this strenuous time. All was done that possibly could have been done.

Our own Christian High School boys risked their own lives and went among the stricken and administered to their every need in a most commendable way, in this way showing forth the spirit of Christ and manifesting their trust in the power of God to keep them thru pestilence. Not one of them fell victim to the disease.

All the people were most willing to obey orders in using the disinfectants provided for their use. They remained in their own homes instead of walking about, and were eager for the inoculations. This co-operation helped to keep the disease from spreading further. All who know the superstitions of India will appreciate co-operation of this kind on the part of the Indian people.

When we think of the crowded conditions in which these people live, and their small houses, with no way of isolating the sick, we realize how wonderful it is that the disease was checked so quickly. In all there were twenty-eight cases with eight deaths.

There were many prayers offered for the sick and we know God heard our cries, and that His hand led us thru this serious time. We praise Him for all His blessings.

ELSIE D. KAUFMAN.

#### MINISTERIAL RETREAT.

On October 12th and 13th the Deacon and Ministering brethren of the Balodgahan, Sankra, Dondi and Shantipur congregations, with their Bishop, met at Shantipur to spend the time in meditation and prayer for the membership of the churches represented. They were called together because of the increasing burdens expressed by different brethren of the ministry.

We took our cushions and stools out to the little forest near the Shantipur bungalow and there, in the shade of the trees, meditated and prayed both collectively and individually during the two days. The first day the burden was for our own individual spiritual fitness for the responsibilities we have to bear. We shared our needs, our anxieties, and prayed God to grant us the infilling of the Spirit, of the love of Christ, and wisdom to successfully take up the tasks that are ours. On the second day the burden was for the Church and individual members. Special conditions and needs were presented by the different members and most of the time was given to prayer, specially mentioning each item or individual in turn. We closed the very profitable two days with prayers for each individual member of our group, mentioning them by name. The Lord was near and richly blessed us. Fruit has already resulted from our having thus met and we have decided to meet again after six months to spend another two days in profitable fellowship.

G. J. LAPP.

#### BALODGAHAN.

When the cholera epidemic was on in Dhamtari two of the Boarding girls developed symptoms of that disease. Medicine was administered at once and a government doctor was called. The girls soon responded to treatment and were all right by the next morning. So it appears that they did not have cholera.

All the Dhamtari girls who attend school at Balodgahan, and several teachers, were in Dhamtari for a short holiday when cholera broke out. They were not able to return for the first days of school but were kept in quarantine. Several of the girls had cholera but all recovered.

On October 30 the widows began to cut their rice. They enjoy harvesting very much. The widows who have other duties want to leave those and go to the fields too. Cutting rice is a slow process. They will most likely spend fifteen or twenty days in cutting thirty acres. About thirty of the women do the harvesting.

The children in the Widows' Home are suffering from whooping cough. La Verne Vogt took it from them. She is getting better but still whoops a great deal.

Donald Miller is staying with the Vogts while his father is trying to regain his strength. May the Lord quickly restore Bro. Miller's health.

#### MEDICAL STATION.

During the first and second weeks of October the hospital was kept rather busy in supplying medicine and giving treatment to the cholera patients in the infected area. Some were lost but we feel that medicine and treatment were a decided factor in the recovery of many.

There is a boy in the hospital with a fractured leg. The accident happened several months ago. He first went to another hospital and, according to his account, the treatment he received there was unscientific. He has been with us a month now and is making progress slowly. When asked how he is feeling, he always smiles and says, "All is well." He reads, and sometimes the compounders go to him and sing and tell Bible stories. Of course he is always polite and asks them to come again. We hope that he will realize his need of a Saviour.



## DONDI.

On October 7 Dr. Troyer performed ten operations in the Dondi dispensary. These patients filled up all the wards. They have all recovered nicely and are very happy. This is a real testimony for Christ among a people who know little besides witchcraft.

## SANKRA.

Due to lime dust in the air at housecleaning time, Brother Smucker had an attack of asthma. He had not been troubled with it for many months.

The two Hindus under instruction want baptism. If it is felt that they are ready, they will be baptized on December 10. A class of young converts may also be ready for baptism at the same time.

Preparatory services were held on November 5 and communion will be observed on November 12, when Brother Lapp will have charge. Brother and Sister Lapp will spend the day at Sankra and have a part in the evening meeting also.

## GENERAL.

Brother Miller spent the month of October at the lake at Adamabad and at Dondi. He is gaining in strength and we trust he will soon be able to take up his duties.

Sister Wenger has been spending several weeks at Ghatula. We are glad that she is doing well and trust that in a very short time she will be back to normal health again.

The month of October was the time for housecleaning at most of the stations in the mission. Because of shortage of funds not so much whitewashing was done this year. Only the places which needed it most, received coats.

On October 2, a cable from America told of the serious burns received by Brother Hostetler's father. The next day another cable came telling of his death. We will have to wait a month before particulars of the accident will reach us. Our sympathies go out to the bereaved ones upon whom this loss came so suddenly.

# INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. XII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, December 1933. § No. 12.

## BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting was held Nov. 14-16 at Balodgahan.

On the afternoon of Nov. 13, the missionary sisters had their annual meeting at Shantipur. Subjects concerning the work among women were discussed, and Sister Friesen spoke on the work of the Sewing Circles in America.

All day Tuesday, Nov. 14, was given to devotion and spiritual uplift. In the forenoon Brother Kaufman spoke on The Challenge of the All Round Christian Life. This was followed by open discussion and a season of prayer. In the afternoon Brother Friesen spoke on The Call of Isaiah, and this was followed by short talks on (1) The Call to Tithe, (2) The Call to receive, and the conditions to be fulfilled for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, (3) The Call to help people accept the Bible standard of repentance and confession of sins, (4) The Call to make Evangelism a more sacrificial service. After that some time was spent in open discussion, testimony, requests for prayer and the meeting closed after a season of prayer. We felt that the Lord was very near.

Wednesday and Thursday were taken up with committee reports and business. Each session was preceded by a talk bearing on some phase of our work.

Not much time was spent in discussing money matters or in planning how to use money, for our problem now is to make our funds go as far as possible. The challenge before us now is to obtain the greatest spiritual blessings thru this financial stringency and that we may realize as never before that our dependence is on God and that He is able to help us in all circumstances.

Following are some of the resolutions adopted:

"That to meet the Challenge of the All Round Christian Life, we make the Bible the center and the Holy Spirit the guide in our lives, and that we strive to teach the joy and blessing received (1) in giving, and (2) in sacrificial service in evangelism."

"That in our relations with inter-Mission organizations we never fail to make clear our position on the Evangelical Christian faith and our own distinctive witness as a Mennonite Church, and that we authorize the Managing Committee to take care of any specific cases which may arise."

"That we as a group of missionaries in session in our Annual Business Meeting repudiate the unorthodox theological basis of

the book Re-Thinking Missions, and that we confirm the former statements of the Secretary and other missionaries concerning the book."

"That we again express our sincere gratitude to the Church at home for their interest and self-sacrificing spirit manifested in the support of the work in India, and, that under the present stringent circumstances, on the field and at home, we pledge ourselves anew to more sacrificial service, and thru prayer and information to help keep the missionary spirit alive in the Church at home."

The missionary group was smaller this year than it has been for some time. Five missionaries left the field in the beginning of the year and only two returned. Brother and Sister Miller were absent because of Brother Miller's health. There were only two missionaries present and six children.

We are confident that He who has called us to work in India is able to keep us and provide for the work, so we enter into the New Year with faith and confidence.

#### CHRISTIAN WORKERS' NORMAL

The annual Christian Workers' Normal was held at Balodgahan Nov. 22 to Dec. 5.

This has been a very inspirational and spiritually uplifting Normal with the workers. We praise God for the felt presence of the Holy Spirit and pray that the effects of these days may be felt in all the work of the Mission and Church.

In spite of the fact that the Normal had to be postponed to avoid danger of cholera infection, and teachers had to be shifted and substituted, the attendance and interest was very good.

Each morning at 6:30 we met in the church. After a short prayer and a song, Ps. 19:4 and Ps. 119:18 were repeated and then we separated for individual Bible reading, prayer and meditation. After a light breakfast at 7:30, we gathered in the church at 8:30. Bro. Smucker and Bro. Parsadi were in charge of the morning devotional meetings. Some of the subjects were: "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you"; "The Potter and the Clay"; "Living Epistles known and read of all Men"; "By the grace of God I am what I am"; "Put on the whole armor of God." After devotion the workers were in classes and discussion groups until eleven o'clock and again from 2:00 to 3:40 in the afternoon.

Sister Fannie Lapp and Bro. Smucker each had a class in "Jesus' Claims to Divinity in the Gospel of John." Bro. G. J. Lapp had two classes in "From Egypt to Canaan." He very ably showed God's loving leading of the Children of Israel and especially its application to Christian life and spiritual growth.

One hour each day was devoted to discussing and Biblically solving the many questions and problems faced by the workers in their work in the non-Christian homes. These questions were many and varied, and by dividing ourselves into four groups, there was more opportunity and freedom for expression. The brethren met with Bro. Vogt and Bro. Hostetler, the sisters with Sister Lapp, Sister Vogt and Sister Troyer.

The last period of the afternoon was devoted to a series of talks on "God revealed thru Nature." The subjects treated were, (1) Lightning and Electricity; (2) Our Bodies; (3) Botany; (4) Insect Life; (5) The Heavens. All the speakers showed how wonderfully God made all things and how He prepared the world with plants and food for man, and that thru them He reveals Himself to us. Sister Troyer spoke one afternoon on Woman's place in the Home. She stressed the point that mothers should teach God's word to their children by word and example.

On Dec. 1, 2, 3, the medical workers and teachers also had a part in the meetings. The main topic for those days was Personal Work—"I will make you fishers of men." The topic was divided into the following subjects: Preparation, Work, Fruit Bearing. There was a talk by one of the missionaries or workers followed by open discussion on questions which were handed in on the subject for the day. All were closely related to our work and our spiritual needs.

The evening meetings were evangelistic but contained spiritual messages and practical truths for all. They were in charge of Bro. Friesen and Bro. Hostetler. The Holy Spirit was manifest in changing lives, converting sinners and causing Christians to publicly re-consecrate their lives to the Lord. On Sunday evening the sermon was preceded by a testimony meeting in which many testified to the many blessings they had received during the meetings.

On Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 4 and 5, all the evangelists and Bible women, and others who were interested, were together in the jungle in a retreat for prayer and meditation. We were mutually strengthened, united and drawn close to God thru praying for each other, thru testimony and praise, and thru sharing of burdens.

We pray and believe, and ask you to help us pray, that this may be the beginning of a spiritual revival in the Church which will purify us and burn out the dross and that we may come forth as pure gold.

ALMA SMUCKER.

## MR. GANDHI'S VISIT

Mr. M. K. Gandhi has been released from jail on his promise to abstain from non-co-operation agitation for one year. He considers himself on parole and has now taken up the cause of the Harijans, or depressed classes, and is touring India in their interest. He is working to have them admitted into the Hindu community and to have Hindu temples thrown open to them. On Nov. 22 he came to Raipur and visited Dhamtari on the forenoon of Nov. 24. He came by motor, and Dhamtari was crowded with people who came in from villages miles away. A high platform was erected for him in an open place from which all could see him and from there he addressed the people. He also addressed a meeting at which only Indian ladies were present. A purse of several hundred rupees was given to him and also jewelry which was sold at auction. In all about Rs. 1,000- were given to help in his work of uplifting the outcastes. Mr. Gandhi calls this a humanitarian movement. The orthodox Hindus are opposed to this movement. They do not want the depressed classes recognized as Hindus and so they follow Mr. Gandhi about and try to hinder his work.

## GENERAL

Thanksgiving Day was observed in most of the congregations on Nov. 9. Several congregations did not find that day convenient so observed another day.

Communion was held at Sankra on Nov. 12 and at Shantipur on Nov. 26.

The children attending school in Darjeeling arrived home on Nov. 24. The Landour children will arrive on Dec. 8. This is always a happy time for the parents and children.

On Nov. 9, Sister Amaraoti, who has been a Bible woman at Ghatula for a number of years, passed to her eternal reward. Her death was caused by complications brought on by an enlarged spleen. She leaves a sorrowing husband and three sons. Many women have heard the gospel story from her lips and we pray that her labor will not have been in vain.

In the last Sunday evening meeting during Normal news came of the serious illness of Sister Anna Stalter so special prayer was offered in her behalf. Most of the Bible women present in the Normal had been girls in the Orphanage when it was in Sister Stalter's charge. A number were moved to tears when they heard of her illness. Our prayer is that the Lord may be very near her and sustain her.