

# INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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No. 9

## With The Workers In Burma

It was my privilege to meet with the teachers and students at Meiktila during the closing days of the past school year. We enjoyed some good meetings together, and many of the boys and some of the teachers expressed a determination to reconsecrate themselves to God. During the past year six of the students have accepted the truth and united with the church. A number of the boys and some of the teachers who have not as yet taken their stand fully for the truth, are studying the Bible daily, and we are sure if they continue to seek earnestly for light, that God will lead them into the sunlight of His love, and then they will be ready to give their hearts and lives to Him.

Miss Hosie who has been connected with the school as head mistress was barely able to complete her year's work because of failing health. As soon as possible after the close of school she went to the hill station in Upper Burma with the hope that a cooler climate and the much needed rest will put her in trim for another year's work. Late reports indicate that she is improving.

From Meiktila, in company with Brother Beckner, I went to Pakokku where I

had the privilege of baptizing Brother Tweedie. Brother Tweedie has been studying the truth for a number of years and finally decided to step out on the promises of God and obey His commandments. He is postmaster at Pakokku but he has his work arranged so he gets Sabbath off. Pakokku is a village of twenty thousand inhabitants, and as a result of the work that Brother Tweedie is doing others are interested. We anticipate a

call for another baptismal service in the near future.

Brethren Beckner and Carrott and their families have succeeded in finding a place in the hills to which they have gone in order to escape the intense heat on the plains for the next six weeks. Brother and Sister Ludington for lack of suitable quarters in which to live, and the Lower Burma

workers, for various reasons, have decided not to go to the hills this year.

Brother Tornblad, who is engaged in opening up some tin mines in the hills northeast of Moulmein, has been quite ill for several weeks. He and Sister Tornblad have been in Rangoon for the past two weeks and we are glad to report that he is improving. They have now

### Prayer

Prayer is the swiftest cable known,  
And longest, reaching to God's throne.  
It is a flame of heaven-born light  
To flash a clear way to our sight.  
Prayer is the Christian's telescope  
To scan the star-strewn sky of hope.  
It is the prism through which we view  
God's colour scheme for me and you.  
Prayer is the lever for each hour,  
To move the arm of Mighty Power.  
The drafts for all this wealth we take  
Bear e'er this seal, "For Jesus' sake."  
How oft we lose, unarmed by prayer!  
No battle wanes when God is there!

*Worthie Harris Holden.*

gone to their rest home up in the Southern Shan States and he plans to take complete rest during the hot season.

Brother J. A. Denoyer, who has been engaged in vernacular canvassing since Conference, is now studying the Burmese language with a view to fitting himself for more efficient service in this branch of the work. During the eleven weeks that he canvassed since Conference he sold nearly four thousand copies of our papers, and more than Rs. 200 worth of small books and tracts. This is one more indication that there is a bright future before us in our vernacular literature work. We believe that it is one of the main channels through which we are going to reach the millions of Burma.

Brother Ngwe Zin has just returned from the Training School at Lucknow, and has gone to work with the Hanthawaddy Press to learn the printer's trade.

When he has finished his course he will connect with the publishing house in Lucknow, where we plan to have our Burmese literature printed in the future.

At the beginning of the first quarter of this year, the Rangoon Sabbath-school set as its goal for the quarter, Rs. 200. Some thought this was rather high for a school with an average attendance of thirty, and even expressed doubt as to whether or not we would ever be able to reach it. However, we are glad to report that the goal was reached and passed by Rs. 138 9-9. Inasmuch as so many of our members are away in the hills for a part of this quarter we decided not to increase the goal for this quarter, so it stands at Rs. 200 again and we are going to have another overflow if possible.

The work is onward in Burma.

C. F. LOWRY.

## Calcutta

Our Boys' School was opened in Calcutta during the month of February with about a dozen in attendance, which has since been increased to seventeen. Five of the largest boys came from Hindu homes, three of them with the purpose of becoming Christians and two of them because their father wished them to be under Christian influence and to receive good moral instruction, for which he pays full fees, or Rs. 5 a month besides books and clothing.

Believing in the discipline of manual labour we have introduced certain industries right from the start, and we consider these as important as any part of the instruction given. These include gardening, weaving, carpentering, and book-selling, at which three hours are spent daily. The five boys who go out with the literature each day are having

good success, selling from four to eight annas worth of literature daily.

The Spirit of the Lord is working upon the hearts of the students in both the boys' and girls' schools and we hope before the end of the year to see a goodly number of them prepared for baptism. We are also looking to these schools to supply us some earnest workers for the cause in the near future.

Brother Fletcher has been with us for several days, getting an insight into all departments of the work in Bengal. We have been very grateful for this opportunity, as it will enable him to give us valuable counsel in future.

East Bengal

During the past month Brother Mookerjee has been touring in East Bengal and reports many new interests springing up in various places.

In order to more thoroughly instruct some of the leading men of these companies which are being raised up in East Bengal, we are planning to hold a Bible Institute in Calcutta during a part of

May and June. Brother Mookerjee will take charge of the Institute, at the close of which we expect to hold our Bengali Conference beginning the 21st.

L. J. BURGESS.

## A Trip in East Bengal

We have just returned after a five weeks' trip among our Sabbath-keepers and interested people of East Bengal. We were obliged to return as this is not the proper season to go into the interior. Water in the canals has dried up making it impossible to visit many places by boat. Hence we had to leave six places unvisited until the rains break. During our trip we visited two towns and eleven villages. Although the journey was not very comfortable, not being able to secure proper food or water part of the time, yet we rejoice to see ten families who publicly took their stand with us in the Message.

As we went about among the Christians, Hindus and Mohammedans preaching about the second advent of Christ, we had many interesting experiences of which I will relate one or two. When visiting among some interested people, a call came from a near-by Hindu village, inviting us there to talk on the subject of seventh-day observance. We accepted their invitation and upon reaching the village found more than a hundred men gathered together for the meeting. These were all Hindus, and as they came in to the place where we were holding the meeting, one by one they bowed before a little house containing a grave of an old Hindu woman. The people there wanted us to explain to them the significance of the keeping of the seventh day, as this old Hindu woman who was buried there always made it a practice to keep the seventh day. She fasted on that day herself and provided a feast at the close

of every Saturday for those who came to worship with her. She was looked upon as a prophetess by the villagers, who told us that her prophecies have come to pass. She even prophesied that there would be wars toward the end of this earth's history. Upon enquiry we found that this woman died about thirty years ago, still her grave is kept up and revered as a sacred spot. I explained to these people that the seventh-day is a memorial of creation, established by the true God. This paved the way to a talk on the subject of the difference between the true Creator and false gods. They earnestly listened to the words spoken and when the meeting was over they thanked us for the instruction and asked us to visit them again.

March 17th was the memorable day of our trip, when ten families, representing four villages who had been in the balances for a time, gathered in their first Sabbath worship. After speaking to them I gave opportunity to those who would testify of their intention to join us in the faith of the Third Angel's Message. One by one all stood and gave expression to their desire to unite with us. These families became interested as the result of the faithful labours of an East Bengal brother who studied with us in our last year's Bible Class. A week later, on the 24th of March in Gopalgunj, I had the privilege of baptizing this good brother.

Better days are ahead of us in East Bengal. Calls are coming from all directions. But the sad thing is that we

have no workers to fill the needy fields. We practically have but two evangelists and three canvassers among the many millions of East Bengal. However we have hopes that some of our young men

who have gone to our Calcutta school will return to their own homes in East Bengal and give the message to their own people.

L. G. MOOKERJEE.

## A Little Child Shall Lead Them

We are now in the second year of our Bengali Girls' School, and as we take a retrospect of the year past we feel to thank God for His leading hand in our work.

We have now been three months in our new home, and we find it ideal for a girls' school—privacy, quiet surroundings, a large compound for work and play, with several varieties of fruit for our use. We are gardening on quite a large scale, by which means we hope to lessen our expenses. We have had no illness to speak of, which fact we believe is due to the large compound for exercise in work and play.

Almost without exception, our girls came to us eighteen months ago without a knowledge of the Bengali alphabet. Some of these same girls will enter the second standard after the summer vacation.

Best of all, God's Holy Spirit has been in our midst, converting some of these children. One marked case I will mention. A child of only ten came to me one day and said she wanted to have a talk with me all alone. She said it would take a long time so she would wait until I had time. I made time at once and as I took her apart she told how for a long time a strong desire had been growing in her heart to become a true Christian. She told me how under provocation she had shut her hands tight, had closed her lips and prayed to God and had gotten a victory, not to answer back. She said, "He helps me so much." "Before, I said such hard things when I got angry, but

now I just pray and all the anger leaves me." She said, "I want to do everything Jesus tells me to do, and so I want to be baptized."

She had some cheap bracelets on her wrists which she wanted cut off. I had never studied the question of jewelry with her, so I asked her why she wanted them off. Had any one told her Christians ought not to wear jewelry, or was it because she saw I was not wearing any? She said, "No, I just do not feel right before God to wear them." "But," I said, "your mother may object." She said, "Not when I explain; I must have them off;" so at last I took her to Brother Burgess to have him cut them off.

Sister Burgess gave a lesson the other day on "The stars in our crowns," so this child has singled out two girls in the school for her stars. She does not stop with praying for them. She is doing personal work. As a result of her work, two girls, one not her star, have asked for baptism. Truly, "A little child shall lead them." It is my earnest prayer that this little leaven may leaven the whole lump.

DELLA BURROWAY.

THE *Asiatic Division Mission News* says,—On account of questions raised by the Nanking Language School Board regarding the attendance of our students, the Asiatic Division Committee have requested Doctors A. C. and Bertha Selmon to conduct a language school for our students at Nanking the coming year.

## Hapur, North India

We have been at this station nearly five months, and should have reported to the TIDINGS before now. In fact, it would seem from the absence of reports that we are asleep, but this is not the case.

Our station, Hapur, is located on the Delhi—Moradabad line of the O. & R. Ry. It is about 35 miles from Delhi and about 18 miles from Meerut, there being a branch line of the O. & R. Ry. running from Hapur there.

Hapur has a population of about 35,000, mostly Hindus. It is a very large grain market and for this reason there are many baniyas (shopkeepers), who are a hard class of people to reach with the gospel. The country around Hapur is very densely populated. Many villages, with populations ranging from 300 to 2,000, give us plenty of advantages for work.

Since coming here, one man, a Christian, and his family, have accepted the truth and he is now actively engaged in teaching and preaching in five different villages. Some of these are twelve miles from Hapur, but we have good roads and make good use of our bicycles. Our work is mostly among the Chamars, who are shoemakers and farmers by trade. They seem very eager to learn, and there is really an awakening among this caste of people at present. It seems to me that now is our opportunity to win them for Christ before they become Arya Samajist or Mohammedans. We are also preaching to the Jats and Rajputs in one or two villages. As soon as our men come from the Training School in Lucknow, I expect to place each of them in some central village so he will be able to work two or three villages around him, teaching their boys and girls to read and holding meetings with all the villagers. I believe our efforts for the boys and girls will be the most fruitful.

Besides going into the villages, I have been doing all I can to strengthen our canvassing work by going out with the men as opportunity affords. We are running our Urdu and Hindi magazines as bi-monthlies and are selling them at two pice each with the same subscription rate, six annas a year. We got out a 1500 edition of each after the Calcutta Conference, which were the same size edition as the previous one. We put these into the hands of the canvassers March 1st, and by March 31st practically all of the March and April editions were sold, thanks to our editors and the Lucknow Press. Our May-June issues have now been in the hands of the men for ten days or more. The fact that the Urdu and Hindi *Signs of the Times* has come out ahead of time we consider really a sign of the times. We have had 4,000 and 3,000 editions respectively of this number printed, and everything indicates that these will all be sold before the July-August number is ready, but we care not. We pray that these papers may be the means of carrying the light of truth to many hearts.

We are of good courage in our work in North India. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness to God for His many blessings. Since April 10th I have been visiting the different stations. I shall report something in the next TIDINGS of my visits to these places.

We are glad to report that Miss Kurtz has recovered from her recent illness. We know that the Lord has answered our prayers in her behalf.

We need the prayers of our workers in the other divisions of the India Union Mission for our work at Hapur, and not only Hapur but for all North India.

M. M. MATTISON.

## Nazareth

Ever since we returned from our Calcutta Conference we have all been very busy with the different departments of our work at this station and the out-station in South Travancore. Our school at this place has been progressing very satisfactorily in spite of all sorts of opposition from different ones. We have to-day 75 students on the roll, of whom 49 are boys and 26 girls. They are all at present working very hard for their promotion examination which will be held on the last week of the month. The students with the other young people of our church are doing steady work in connection with our Y. P. M. V. Society.

For the last month we have been conducting another series of meetings in our Prayer Cottage, rented by our Home Missionary Department. As many of our Coimbatore School students have come here of late for their mid-summer vacation, I have asked the oldest boys to take up these meetings. They are doing very well as preachers. This has stirred up the community, hence a great many people have been attending our meetings to hear these young men. Also I have asked nearly all of these larger boys and girls to act as our Sabbath-school teachers for this quarter. They have very gladly

accepted the invitation and are doing their part very encouragingly.

From the beginning of our work at this place, I was very anxiously waiting to see these young people turn out as active gospel workers. Some of them have been under our instruction for nearly a decade. I was indeed very glad and felt thankful the other day to be one among the audience and listen to impressive discourses on "The Rebellion of Satan in Heaven," "Creation," "Temptation," "The Fall of our First Parents," "The Plan of Salvation," etc. I get this chance of being one among the audience very rarely. I very much appreciate this privilege. I cannot but allow my heart to leap with joy and praise when I think of the bright future we have before us in South India with these young people, who are ready to share responsibilities with us in finishing this grand work.

Another interesting feature of our work is that our whole church is hard at work in getting ready for the next Harvest Ingathering service which is to be held shortly. We are well and of good courage, pressing the battle forward.

Kindly continue to remember this part of His vineyard also before the throne of Grace.

E. D. THOMAS.

## Fishers Of Men

The following lines from the pen of Will H. Dixon should appeal to every member of God's Church.—

Down by the sea of mild Galilee,  
The Saviour passed time and again;  
From the shore of the sea, He called,

"Follow Me,

And I'll make you fishers of men."

He is calling to-day in the same earnest way;

He is calling for fishers again;

And the brightest names known up  
around God's throne

Will be those who were fishers of men.

Here are the experiences of some who have accepted the call to become "Fishers of men."

"Through having the paper sent to her brother, one sister is abundantly rewarded by seeing him living out and spreading the truths of this glorious message." "Another had it sent to a re-

lative in the old home town. As a result a little company of believers has been raised up."

There is plenty of room for more fishermen. Who will enlist?

A. W. KNIGHT.

## Bible Reading and Religious Power

From the Marathi Dayanodaya

It is one of the deepest convictions of the editorial staff of this journal that for any success either in the evangelistic forward moment or in that twin movement, social reform, there must be systematic study of the Bible. In whatever campaign we engage, against whatsoever evils we wage warfare, we must know how to wield that "sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."

We believe fidelity to methodical Bible study would be one of the surest guarantees to steady progress in all our mission churches. That the average Indian Christian is such a poor recommendation of his Saviour to others may perhaps be explained in four words—*Neglect of the Bible*.

Perhaps the root cause is a little deeper still—possibly he has no Bible at all. We wish all missionary workers and Indian Christian leaders would ensure that every Christian man and woman, every mission boy and girl, has a copy of God's Word, and that it is being read as surely as every day dawns. We should then have greater hope for the success of the evangelistic movement which so many are so commendably taking to heart.

The present writer has reason to believe from his own experience that if the following method of direct interrogation were courteously and tactfully adopted oftener, though a startling neglect of Bible reading might be discovered, yet the discovery would lead to encouraging improvement. The narrator is an English evangelist honoured of God in the conversion of thousands.

"At the close of a service some time

ago a young man came to me and said, 'I have been a Christian now for three years, but I am not getting on in my religious life as I ought; instead of making progress I seem to be going backward.' I asked, 'Where are you reading in your Bible at present?' He said 'I don't know.' Then I asked, 'Where did you read yesterday?' He said, 'I was out of town, and so unable to read.' 'Then the day before?' He said, 'I was busy.' 'Then the day before that?' He said, 'I was at a meeting, and did not get home until late and so had no time.' Before the conversation ended I found he had not seen his Bible for nearly a month.'

At the beginning of the second century of Indian Christianity we may learn much from the early history of the Church Universal. Chrysostom declared that "the cause of all our evils is our ignorance of the Scriptures." For a diagnosis of the Christian church in our own time we can turn to no safer guide than Dr. John R. Mott who says: "I have visited sixteen countries, and have been forcibly compelled to conclude that the weakness of the churches is brought about by neglect of the study of the Word of God." Lest these should be esteemed prejudiced judges, listen to what Huxley and Arnold say of religious culture. Professor Huxley, who was certainly no biassed witness, said, "I have been seriously perplexed to know how the religious feeling which is the essential basis of conduct can be kept up without the use of the Bible."

(Concluded in next issue)

# India Union Tidings,

ORGAN OF THE

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## "Copy"

All "copy" intended for publication the 1st of the month should be in the editor's hands promptly on the 20th of the preceding month. "Copy" for the issue of the 15th should be received by the editor not later than the 5th of the same month. Matter received later than these dates will be held over until the next issue. Hand-written or double-spaced type-written "copy" will be gladly received, but *single-spaced type-written manuscript we can not use.*

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## Here and There

All will be pleased to know that word has been received of the safe arrival of Pastor W. A. Spicer in Copenhagen after a visit of some weeks in Germany.

We trust our subscribers will read carefully the good reports in this number. In addition to the report from Burma on the front page, the following word has been received:—

"Please notify your readers that the Burma workers are not ill. They are not asleep. They are not dead. They are BUSY. (Signed) Burma."

Pastor Fletcher recently spent a week with his family in Mussoorie before starting on tour to attend the various local mission meetings.

Pastor N. Z. Town, who went to Wuchow with Doctor Law Keem after going to China, fell among pirates on the way, who robbed the ship and all the passengers, excepting Brother Town and Doctor Law Keem. The captain was shot. It is expected he will recover, though he may lose one eye entirely. Pastor Town is getting a little taste of the experiences of our missionaries in South China.

Brother A. W. Knight will be located in Mussoorie the coming summer, and expects to devote the majority of his time to the study of first-year Urdu.

We shall be glad to hear from any of our family of readers now on furlough in America. Our forces seem rather curtailed this year and any words of encouragement from those in the home fields will be greatly appreciated.

"The Grange," just below Hampton Court School, in Mussorie, has been rented this year for the benefit of those taking their hill leave. This place is much more convenient than the one obtained last year, and from present indications all available space will be occupied during the summer. The wastage among missionary forces from illness, death and other reasons is much greater than many realize; and if relief could not be obtained in the mountains from the burning heat of the plains, the problem of maintaining workers here would indeed be a difficult one. We indeed have cause to be very thankful to God for the climate and beauties of the "everlasting hills."

Our Methodist co-workers in India are becoming quite enthusiastic about the tithing plan for their members. *Kaukab-i-Hind* states:—"Our church in India will experience an unprecedented revival when all our workers and lay members will know the blessedness of tithing their incomes for the extension of the Messiah's kingdom." Blessing always results from following the Bible plan of systematic giving. Have we fulfilled all the conditions as given in Malachi 3:10 for the promised blessing?

The B. & F. B. Society's output in the Punjab for 1916 totaled nearly 158,000 copies—an increase of over 43,000. The total for North India rose to 189,600 volumes—an increase of over 17,000. In Ceylon 83,000 were circulated; in Madras the grand total reached 272,000—42,000 more than 1915. Total contributions for India amounted to Rs. 17,520.

Three of our brethren in Langkloof, South Africa, on February 14th of this year were fined one pound each for hoeing in their gardens on Sunday. An appeal was lodged for a hearing in the higher court. "The magistrate said we should have appealed to Parliament long ago to have the law repealed."

## Notice

Will those who have ordered copies of the limp leather edition of the new book "Captivity and Restoration," kindly note that, owing to the difficulty of securing the special thin paper, delivery cannot be expected for two or three months.