

**AMREIN, REV. (& RUTH C.) A.  
STANLEY**

# KHABAR

(For private distribution only)

Vol. 2, No. 2  
March 15, 1945

Roorkee, U. P.

Issued now and then  
by the A. S. Amreins

## A Conference Change

Annual Conference has come and gone and a change has taken place. Two districts are too much for any one man, and the Conference saw fit to relieve me of the Muzaffarnagar district. And this is good. It was too large a territory to cover with any degree of adequacy, especially when means of transportation are curtailed: and I was merely holding it. The Reverend H. S. Peters, B. A., an Indian who has served the Bareilly Theological Seminary these past twenty-two years, is taking over the Muzaffarnagar District. He comes to the work with deep Christian sincerity, enthusiasm, and ability. Under his undivided attention the work of Christ will go forward in this very fruitful area. We are desperately short of capable men. The words of Jesus: "The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few", are only too true; but one should hasten to add that this farm is slowly becoming a "closed" farm and Indian labor is wanted. It is a task for the Indian Church and the Indian Church is beginning to see its need and responsibility. May it not be too late.

## Something of the Work

It is difficult to say much about the work. It moves with a steadiness if not with startling success. We are in a difficult time and our best work is holding steady. Lack of sufficient personnel, lack of gasoline, lack of proper equipment, lack of decent transportation, high prices make it difficult to get out among the people. Yet there is a steady growth in our work. Recently, one of our men, Ghulam Masih, baptised about twenty families of one village. Last November there were two encouraging district conferences, one for Roorkee District and one for Muzaffarnagar. At the Roorkee Conference we tried something new this year—a Laymen's Conference, where representatives from each of the five Central churches met over the weekend to discuss how the laymen may take an active part in the building of the Church of Christ in India.

Lately there has been a big Moslem Fair, four miles outside Roorkee, where perhaps ten thousand Moslems gathered. We have attended it with the Taylors, missionaries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church located here in Roorkee. We went through the fair selling Gospel portions. In less than an hour we had disposed of over one hundred portions and two New Testaments. Last week I ordered six Bibles in Urdu; twelve New Testaments, twelve hymn books, and fifty pictures; this week they are all gone. This is a little thing, but then our work is made up of little things.

Good medicines are at a premium in the bazaar. We can get good medicines through a Mission enterprise here in India, so we dispense good quinine, atabrine, aspirin, and even sulfa drugs carefully and not in large quantities. (I put this in for our doctor friends who may be astonished that a layman should hand out medicines!) We ought to do more with medicines, and perhaps we will after the war. As we see it, there should be a preacher, a compounder and a teacher in each of our villages. But this is still a dream of perfection.

For the last month or two there has been some woman of our community or district in the hospital here in Roorkee, and Ruth has been busy making arrangements, visiting, paying some bills, supplying necessary food, and taking reading matter to them. The most difficult part is at the very first: the urging, the beseeching the women to go to the hospital and to actually get them there. At the present time two women are in the Civil Hospital; one with acute anaemia; the other for a minor operation. At both the Civil Hospital and the Military Family Hospital the woman doctor is an Indian Christian, and both cooperate with us very kindly.

My work has become more executive in nature. Our missionary personnel is shrinking with amazing rapidity. I'm afraid it wasn't santorized! Bishop Badley has retired and his brother, the Rev. T. C. Badley, leaves shortly on furlough. William Dye, Principal of Bareilly Theological Seminary, is also leaving on furlough. The Clemes' are going or have gone. Wood Whetstone leaves this fall, so little Arthur is taking on more of the Executive work of the Conference. He is Secretary of the Finance Committee, Mission Treasurer, manager of the Eastwood Estate, member of the building committee of the Landour Community Hospital (just got a letter about some lumber so I remembered), member of the Property Committee of the Conference (the only missionary left on our committee so I'll have to write the nasty letters), and a few more odds and ends besides being D. S.

## The Roorkee O. C. U.

We have been enjoying the fellowship of a fine group of British officers. They make up the local officers' Christian Union. Every Sunday evening we meet for Bible Study in a room of an Officer, and on Thursday evenings we meet here in our bungalow for prayer meeting. They bring with them a fresh, stimulating, manly faith, and it gives one courage as well as conviction that Christ is at work in His world. Last Tuesday we had a dinner for the group and enjoyed a fellowship of a more mundane nature, but nevertheless real and stimulating.

## Signs of the Times

With the shortage of missionaries on the field, more Indians are taking positions of responsibility. And this is as it should be. It is our sincere belief that a consecrated Indian Christian can do more for the cause of Christ in India than a foreigner can. The age is against foreigners. Needless to say, India is in change. As one of my Indian friends likes to say, "A new Nation is being born". She is making a desperate attempt to transform her political, economic, and social life; she is using the only tools that she has, and she will make the change, but whether or not she does herself a mortal harm or not remains to be seen. That this air of unrest should carry over into the church is expected, and it is the duty of the church to make her changes in the spirit of love. So far this has been done, and it is to the glory of the church. At Central Conference in January, an Indian, John Subhan, was elected bishop, so now we have two Indian Bishops and two American Bishops. On the Executive Board there are eleven Indians and five missionaries. In our particular conference there are five Indian District Superintendents and two missionary District Superintendents. We may be proud of our Methodist Church of Southern Asia, for it probably leads other churches and missions in turning over the work and resources to our Indian brothers. We of the west may have to shave down some of our ideas concerning the church and what it ought to be in India, but now that the church is established, it seems to me that it would be better to build on a solid eastern foundation that may be smaller, than to try to maintain a skyscraper from the west and perhaps see it totter and fall.

## Two Incidents

The other day coming from Dehra Dun by bus, I witnessed a thought-provoking scene. When we stopped outside a village, a group of young men and boys flocked around the bus. Usually such groups come begging or selling sweets to the passengers, but these boys tackled the driver of the bus to settle an argument: "Is the exact function of the generator of an automobile to store electricity or make it?" We waited perhaps ten minutes while the

driver went into a detailed account of the electrical side of an auto. They all seemed so interested and satisfied that none cared to sell his wares, and all were just raw village boys. I doubt if any could read or write; nevertheless the machine had captured them.

Another day when coming home from Muzaffarnagar by bus, I overheard an argument about female education. One man had ventured to say that boys and girls should have equal opportunities of education. He was soon smothered by his riding companions who all agreed that a woman's place was in the home, and if she had any education, fourth standard was sufficient. "It spoils her. She begins to want 'styles'". European women are severely criticized for their "styles"—they think "styles" and morals don't mix. The tragedy of this conversation is that it had as its partner, the ever-present problem of freedom. For myself I felt it was a tragedy that these men hunger and long for freedom and yet they are not willing to give freedom to half of their population—their women, to say nothing of the vast groups in the depressed classes.

#### **Personals**

Miss Faith Clarke, a District Evangelist under the Women's Division has been appointed to the Roorkee District. After many months of travel she is at last in India, in fact I met her last week in Delhi at a meeting of the Field Committee. It will be grand to have her in Roorkee, and especially to have her helping in the District. She is an old hand at the work, and we expect to see the work progress with her help.

We have also heard that a new missionary, Mr. Rugh, will be arriving shortly in India. It gives us courage to hear that others are coming. Again I say our condition is desperate.

Occasionally we hear from Miss Margaret Hermiston. Letters from Scotland tell us that she has completely recovered and will soon proceed to the U. S. A. As you know she was our Lady Evangelist who found it necessary to return to Scotland because of her health.

Last November we spent Thanksgiving in Meerut with some of our Mission folks. We also had the company of six American boys. This was grand—it made it a real old-fashioned Thanksgiving. It was good to see and visit with the boys—we are ever on the lookout for them.

Nancy and Ginny are growing tall. Nancy at the present has a craze for jig-saw puzzles, and Ginny is becoming an expert Tiddly-Winker. The other day we cut off their hair, so that they now look very modern. There was about six inches of curls from Ginny and five inches of braid from Nancy. They were quite thrilled with the hair and planned to make wigs for their dolls, but found it too difficult.

Ruth is getting ready for school. In less than a month, we must get up to Woodstock: Nancy will be in First Standard, and Ginny will be in Lower Kindergarten, Ruth will be teaching piano, and I will divide my time part there, part here.

W. W. Reid  
Board of Missions  
etc

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A former Connecticut pastor, now a missionary of the Methodist Church in the United Provinces, India, will be the guest-speaker at

on

Mr. Amrein will speak

on his experiences in India, and on the future of that land as it is ~~freed from~~ given its independence from the British Empire.

Mr. Amrein has been in missionary service since 1941 when he was appointed by the Board of Missions and Church Extension and assigned to India. He has been stationed in Asansol, in Roorkee, and in Ghaziabad, engaged in educational and in evangelistic work. At Ghaziabad he has been associated with ~~many~~ one of the most noted industrial and agricultural schools in India -- one taken as a model in the development of <sup>modern</sup> government schools in the province.

Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Mr. Amrein was educated at Bates College, at Union Theological Seminary, and at Hartford Theological Seminary. Before his assignment as a missionary he was ordained to the Methodist ministry as a member of the New York East Conference, and served as pastor of the Methodist Church in Plainville, Conn. At the completion of his present furlough he plans to return to India.

Photographs from this  
file have not been  
included but are  
available upon request.  
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