

CHURCH GETS ANNUAL LETTER FROM INDIA

Clarence E. Wolsted, Foreign Minister of Congregational Church, Tells of Work

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the Winnetka Congregational church have received the annual "report" from their church representative in India, the Rev. Clarence E. Wolsted. This letter to the home church contains so much of general interest as to merit publication for the benefit of the readers of WINNETKA TALK. The accompanying is the second and final installment of Mr. Wolsted's letter. The first installment appeared in last week's issue of WINNETKA TALK.

The Young People's work has been confined chiefly to efforts through Christian endeavor societies. There are now 324 societies with a membership of 13,518. This year there was a gain in membership of 835. At the annual rally held in Madura over 500 were present. Different societies took part by songs and drills, and our speaker was Dr. E. Stanley Jones. I have the work again for next year, but I fully realize I have not time or strength to do it properly. We are working towards a plan of having a full-time Indian worker; some young man who can go from congregation to congregation encouraging the boys and girls in their efforts. My, what a field this would offer for some young man and his wife from America, if they were interested in the problems of young people. However, we understand the American board cannot send out any workers for a new department, because the budget won't allow. We are even advised not to start any new work if funds are not necessary to support it. So we are looking out over new fields that beckon us on, and the question is to know what to do.

Touring work this year has been full of interest. My best record so far was nineteen meetings in one week. For the evening meetings when the stereopticon was used some times over 500 were present. One night last March we had close to 1,000. The people are ready to listen and even ask questions. One night after a meeting in which pictures of the life of Christ were shown, a Hindu came to me and said, "We have nothing like this in our religion." I could well understand what he meant. Purity, good will, optimism are not common traits in most of these villages. Last September Dr. E. Stanley Jones was invited to come "The Christ of the Indian Road," you to Madura. If you have read his book, know what a stirring message he has. Night after night the assembly hall was packed. Invitations were given out

especially for the educated Hindus and Mohamedans, and the Christians were asked not to come so as to leave more room. One evening two of us went, planning to attend only if there were vacant chairs. But every place was crowded, even in the doors and windows.

They tell us that twenty years ago if the name of Christ was mentioned in such a meeting the people would get up and go out. But a marvelous change has come. Years of labor and noble example by those gone before are bearing fruit. Last year we sent with our letter a map of the mission area showing darkened sections. These were called the unoccupied territories and one of the largest was Sethur pastorate which is in our field. This year the black line has been pushed back there. A school for girls has been started in one large town where for-

merly girls were not considered worthy of an education. Fifty girls are now attending and the school is growing. A school was started in another center. The teacher has been there for over one year now, and as a result of his work and the help of others sixty-two persons were baptized last Sunday. In a neighboring village 150 have asked for baptism and will need to be trained this coming year.

In another village the Hindus and Mohamedans agreed to let us use their building for a mission school. Often it is all uphill work, but natural enough when the top is reached we forget about the climbing. It also helps one to appreciate his fellow workers, and some of them are splendid.

You may wonder about the character of these people. With their background what will be their future? I can best answer that by continuing the story of

M. Daniel. I have told before about how his reading the New Testament awakened in him new hopes and desires. He refused to take part in the temple worship, and, although 19 years of age, his relatives tried to compel him. Then one night he ran away and came here. After a period of probation and then baptism, he decided to go to the Teachers' Training school and later return to his village. The mother and relatives learning of his whereabouts came and even tried to take him by force, but he was firm. During his two years of study he made the best record in the school. Last March when he was ready to start work we offered him a school near here, because we thought that would give him time to get adjusted and to be strengthened for future trials. But he said "No, I must return to my village

(Continued on page 10)



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