MUKTI MISSION
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1889-1939

Pandita Ramabai and Her Only Daughter, Manoramabai

Pandita, Founder and Superintendent until 1922 when she was translated to Glory
Our great day, that is our Golden Jubilee, has come and gone. We celebrated it on March 11th and 12th. Many days beforehand invitations were sent out to all the old Mukti girls within reach, and a steady stream of visitors kept arriving in Mukti to be present at the all-important event. Fifty years of wonderful work wrought by our wonder-working God, 1889–1939.

Krishnabai was mistress of the ceremony and saw to things in general. The church was beautifully decorated, all in gold-paper and sunflowers. A prominent place behind the platform, was given to a Marathi text, ‘Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness’; and one in front, ‘The eternal God is thy refuge,’ the work of the Mukti girls. Meeting began at 9.30 a.m. Everybody was dressed in their very best clothes and what a splash of colour they were! It was an inspiration to see such a sea of faces. Our great church which holds 2,000 was filled as it has not been filled for some time. It was a sight to see such a crowd of eager faces; some old and white-haired folk were among them. We sang and truly felt,

‘O God our help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come.’

Then after prayer several speakers took part. Krishnabai presided.

The first speaker said, ‘This is a day of rejoicing and giving glory to God.’ That morning an old woman, very feeble and shaky, said, ‘I’m old and feeble, but I have come to praise the Lord.’ That was the keynote. ‘Praise for all God has wrought in the past fifty years,’ said the speaker. How many women have been rescued, how many children have been taken in, how many babies, how many have been trained and educated
and above all how many have been saved! God chose Pandita Ramabai to be His channel for the work; and what a big share Manoramabai had in it, only those of us who lived in Mukti at that time know. We have kept no account of numbers, but the Lord knows all the names, He has the list. Why did God choose Pandita? First, because she was obedient. Second, she was humble. Third, she was mighty in prayer and strong in faith. At this time had she been here, she would have said, ‘Girls, praise the Lord.’

Miss Wells told us how she first heard of Ramabai and how she came to be here, at first against her will. And so on, one speaker after another had just a few minutes in which to speak.

Then some of the ‘Old Girls’ testified, one after another, as to what they owed to Mukti. They would have gone on for hours, but time was limited, so only a few were heard. Miss Craddock was the last speaker and Krishnabai closed the meeting.

In the evening all Mukti gathered at the shady side of the church in the open air and there we had a united dinner. How it was enjoyed! For had it not been made ready in ‘Mukti’ which so many called their own home? No good thing was lacking and the food tasted sweet to us all. And what memories we each one had of loved ones now gathered in the Heavenly Home!

Our aim was that our Lord should be glorified and exalted, and truly He was. One wondered as He saw the hundreds that have been saved out of heathenism, brought out of darkness into His marvellous light, if His heart and the heavenly hosts rejoiced too, if He thought Calvary was worth while and if He saw of the travail of His soul and was satisfied.

Next day was Sunday. We all gathered in church again and had a blessed Communion Service. We were reminded of the tremendous cost of our salvation and how the Lord loved sinners and paid the price for them.

On Sunday afternoon we had a Service of Song on the Life of Pandita Ramabai, and so ended the celebration of our Jubilee, an event of a lifetime. Many visitors stayed on for a few days visiting their friends. Some had not met for twenty-five and thirty years. So the occasion was a rare one indeed and was made the most of possible.

M.L.H.
'Witnesses'

So often experiences come to us here when we wish with all our hearts that our friends in the various homelands could be with us to share them. One such was on February 28th, when a baptismal service was held on the banks of the river, six miles away.

Five young girls had come to the point of accepting Christ as their personal Saviour and were desirous of witnessing to the fact by being baptised. Three were children of Christian parents, while two, in taking this step, were the first in their families to become followers of Christ.

Our Evangelistic Band had been camping near the river for two months, so its members were able to help in arranging for the service, and also invited the people from the village near to come and see how it was conducted. When the time came, between 60-70 villagers gathered in the shade of the trees where the tents were pitched, and our women sang to them hymns of praise to God as Father and Jesus Christ as Son and Saviour. Before proceeding to the river Mr. Hivale, an Indian pastor, who is staying with us for a few months, gave a talk on the meaning of baptism. More singing followed and then we all walked down to the river side, and the five girls standing there answered clearly, as with one voice, the questions asked as to their belief in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and their desire to be baptised. Mr. Hahn and Mr. Hivale then together baptised each girl, the first and the last being the non-Christians whose faces beamed as they came up out of the water.

After we had sung the Doxology, the Benediction was pronounced and we all returned to the Camp, where again hymns were sung. It truly was a Praise Service, and all through we wondered what significance it had to those gathered, to whom it was all something new and might easily be regarded merely as an interesting ceremony performed by members of the Christian community. They certainly know that baptism in this form means a clean break with the old life and beliefs and therefore is not merely of passing interest. But was it of any purport to any one of them individually? Only as they come to know Him, Whom to know is Life Eternal, will there come any desire to step out into this new life.

We left the river-side as the sun was setting in a fiery ball
reflected in the water, and all around was quiet and peaceful as if setting for the night’s rest. We pray this last scene may be symbolic of the lives of these new followers of the Master. May they be burning and shining lights for Him, yet peaceful, too, because their trust is in God.

‘Everyone, who shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of Man confess before the angels of God.’

ISABEL CRADDOCK.

Miss Craddock sailed in the S.S. Strathmore for England, March 18th, and will be home with her loved ones before this reaches you. She needs a good rest, after which we hope friends of the work will meet her.

Her address is 17 Salisbury Road, St. Anne’s, Bristol 4, England.

Pray that she may have a truly helpful and refreshing and profitable furlough.

Pray, too, for Miss Schluntz in America.

Pray for all workers going to the Hills (D.V.) in April and May.

Specially pray for those who are standing by the work here during the heat, that the Lord will overshadow them.

We rest on His promise, ‘I will not fail thee.’

Yours in His Love,

EUNICE WELLS,

M. LISSA HASTIE.

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PRINTED IN INDIA AT THE WESLEY PRESS AND PUBLISHING HOUSE, MYSORE CITY.