OUR DEAR FRIENDS AND PRAYER HELPERS,

'O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.' Ps. 95: 6, 7.

Let us offer praise to our adorable Lord for all His loving care of us and tender provision for us. Cholera has been raging in the villages around here, but the Lord graciously answered prayer and kept all our family free from this dread disease. He abideth faithful!

Two or three generous gifts have come to Mukti as a result of the ministry of Mr. and Mrs. Eicker in America. We thank Thee, thank Thee, Lord.

Jesus we must praise for all the splendid help given by our representatives in the homelands, and for all the encouragement they have received as His faithful stewards have continued to remember the poor and needy here. We marvel again and again, in these days of stress and strain on every hand, when we are remembered; and for every gift of love and for every prayer offered we render grateful thanks and praise.

Let us ascribe unto the Lord praise and worship for legacies received which have specially helped to clear the deficit in the General Fund shown at the end of the Financial year. We could not have managed of course, without the smaller gifts to meet the daily needs.

O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good.
HAPPY HAPPENINGS

Under the advisorship of Miss Callan the ‘White Star’ Young People’s Christian Endeavour Society was formed among the boys in our Bethel families. They have shown a real interest, sending many delegates to a rally in Poona, planning and making their banner, and purchasing badges which they wear with great pride. It has proved a fine outlet for the boys, one opportunity of service being a Gospel Team which has gone frequently to the surrounding villages to proclaim the glorious Gospel message.

Later, an Intermediate Society called ‘Victory Circle’ was organized with some 40 members, older girls from the Children’s Compound, and other girls from Anandi and Elim Sadans. With Bhimabai Harishchandra and Mrs. Phillips as advisors the new society has gone forward, showing keen interest in the Poona Rally, in their C.E. pledge, and the organization of the society; in earning their badges and in making a banner for the society. Both societies were honoured, soon after their inception, by a visit from the Secretary and the President of the India-Burma Union on February 6th, World C.E. Day.

On September 16th, World Sunday School Day, a playlet, based on the Bible as the Eternal Word of God, was presented by the Primary, Junior and Intermediate children, interspersed with songs and Scripture portions by the beginners and six senior departments of the Mukti Sunday School. The first scene depicted the Sunday School as an important instrument in giving the Word; the second presented the Bible as the Christian’s Sword; the third brought out the place of the Bible in daily life; and the fourth demonstrated the part played by the Bible in a shipwreck at sea. An offering of Rs. 81 was taken for the work of the S.S.U. in India. The Secretary wrote in appreciation: ‘I cannot describe the joy I felt for such an unusually generous contribution. It shows the love your people have toward the work of the S.S. It is just another expression of the beautiful spirit that permeates the work at Mukti. What a blessing to have people who have unstintingly given themselves to the Lord.’

N. Phillips
'Elim Sadan' is not a place of trees, but a very unpretending little house into which the adolescent school-girls who have parents or guardians removed last year. But we do pray that it may become a place of 'trees of the Lord's planting'; 'good trees bringing forth good fruit'.

These girls, like the girls in 'Anandi Sadan', fetch their own water, grind their grain and make their bread, and seem to live very happily together.

We were surprised to hear that at least four who went home in April for holidays are married, which makes us realize again how important it is to buy up every opportunity we have, while they are with us. Two of the Elim Sadan girls took their Final examination this year, and they passed. One is now having further study, while the other is one who is married. Another of the girls who finished school here has gone to High School, and still another has started Bible training in Poona.

Our present family consists mostly of younger girls. Do pray that they may truly hear the Lord's call and rise up and follow Him whithersoever He leadeth, and go out to be bright witnesses, and maybe mighty instruments in His Hands here in India in the days to come if He tarry.

Since the Annual Report was written there has had to be a re-arrangement of the children to provide for the Blossoms with such a depleted staff, and this necessitated quite a move, which was carried out successfully and merrily the other day. Now in Elim Sadan, which has been transplanted, we have about 40 children, including even little girls. This makes a lot of difference to the matrons who have been working amongst older girls only, but they have taken up their new duties joyfully. The little ones have a different timetable, and they go to the new dining room for their meals. But the bigger sisters are helping in many little ways, and we are finding that His yoke is easy and His burden light. We are grateful for the help of some of the blind women in leading morning prayers in the compound.

Florence Penny
MUKTI DISPENSARY

As the seasons change so do the complaints and diseases that are brought regularly to Mukti Dispensary. Before the rains fall the eye flies are bad, so most of the treatments are eyes. Then come the rains and the great temptation to play in the water with resultant fever, coughs and colds. Malaria also begins at this time. But sometimes there is variation caused by turkeys, ducks or hens being brought for treatment, to the great amusement of the children.

Galubai has always one great cry—'Bandages'. Bandages have a knack of getting lost from little hands and feet; and amazing though it may seem a bandage at times can be quite a good hair ribbon.

Once a year the middle school children have their physical examination. This year it came in October and Drs. Greenfield and Jeffree (Church of Scotland Mission Hospital, Poona) did the examinations. They were very pleased with the condition of most of our girls and remarked on the difference between them and the village children who were practically all underweight.

We are very grateful for the supply of vitamin tablets which have come from America and rejoice to say that some have been used with good results.

Galubai's former two apprentices, Subhadra and Suriya, are doing well in nursing training. At present both are in operation theatre work. Both were home for one month's holiday; and it was a joy to note the progress made. During Subhadra's holiday Galubai was sick and Subhadra ably assisted me.

Champa, one of the nurses from Kalika Bhuvan, was rather a problem and in July after prayerful consideration she was taken for part time work in the dispensary, with nursery work. She has fitted in well, eager to learn all she can, and since Rhodabai left for further training has helped with treatments and medicines in Kalika Bhuvan. Recently 7th Standard schoolgirls were brought to the nursery to learn how to bathe and care for babies. Champa was delighted to bathe the baby. Her knowledge and capability astonished the teacher.

Praise God for these tokens of His love and grace and pray with us that His will be done in all things.

JANET CALLAN
PRITI SADAN

Powers of the love of God
Depths of the heart Divine,
O Love that faileth not, break forth,
And flood this world of Thine. A.C.

Priti Sadan—the House of Love. This is a very appropriate name for our compound for the older women, for they need sympathy, love and care.

It is said that ten men can live together, but not two women, but it is not so with this compound of women. There is one, however, whom I thought was demon possessed, but God has over-ruled in her heart and she does not hold the fort any more. They all live peacefully.

Two have left the compound and are enjoying the new life Beyond. Recently two women came to spend their last days in the Mission so the number was again increased. I am glad to say that one, Shewantibai, who did Bible-woman’s work previously, has shown herself capable of doing matron’s work, hence she was appointed a matron in Anandi Sadan where the older schoolgirls live, and I hear she is doing well.

Thanks to Miss Woodward for starting a grinding mill in Mukti! Our old women could not do any more grinding so it has been a blessing to them and to many others.

Bhimabai Harishchandra

NEW ARRIVALS

To meet the need of farm labourers twenty-three new converts (seven families) have been called from a community about 300 miles away. They are very poor, low caste people and only one of them can read, but they are keen to learn the Bible and to attend all the services. Vitholrav has memorized 30 verses in the short time he has been with us and Thomasrav who had just come out of Hinduism is showing definite growth in grace. Pray that these new Christians may receive blessing in our midst and that they may become strong leaders in our Christian community. There are several children who are coming to school and to Sunday school.

Marie Schrag
BAI'S FRIENDS

Here we have 39 mentally deficient cases. One died, and one who was a danger to others was taken to the Mental Hospital, Poona. These women did a lot of the grinding but now we have a grinding mill, so they are relieved of this heavy work. They have their work in the Sanitary Department, carrying water, weeding, etc. There are a number of rather troublesome women in this Compound and some are getting old and are often sick. I did not take them out for a picnic this year, so they say I don’t love them. Poor things, such a little pleases them! Some of them at times seem devil possessed. One longs to be able to cast out these demons. Jesus said, 'In my Name shall they cast out devils'. The power of Christ is still the same. Praise the Lord!

ELIZABETH MORRIS

SANITARY WORK

The staff of this department are mostly women from the Mental Compound so we do not have such bright ones to work with. The cart which carries away the washing water from some of the compounds, and from the kitchen, is drawn by them. They do the sweeping and weeding of Mukti. It is mostly buckets, tins and brooms that are required in this department. Most of our buckets are the worse for wear, and buckets to buy these days cost a little fortune. We collect the old brooms and buckets before we issue the new ones. Usually the brooms are given out once a year to the different compounds. The sweeping class have them twice a year.

The mosquitoes this year are more numerous, probably on account of having more rain. Kamalabai the matron, and myself, go round the Institution as often as we can, to see if there is any water standing anywhere in which mosquitoes can breed. I am afraid this has not been done as often as it should have been.

Our Sanitary cart has given us a lot of trouble this year; it has broken down so many times. Pray that the Lord will supply the needs of this department.

ELIZABETH MORRIS
IMPRESSIVE IMPRESSIONS

The class of Hindu boys in the Sharada Sadan School taught by Jayabai Bihari is proving to be a time of coming to grips with the Gospel. Of her class Jayabai writes: ‘The boys love their half hour of Bible every day. How they sing! You can hear them all over the compound. They listen with eagerness and intentness to the stories of salvation. It is encouraging to see how reverently they bow in prayer.’ One morning this challenge was put to them: ‘As many as believe what the Scriptures teach of Christ to be true, stand up.’ Of the 48 in class that morning all but three stood. We realize that this is not an acceptance of Christ as Saviour, but it is a great step if they will confess that they believe what the Scriptures teach concerning Him. Many have said, ‘We can no longer worship our idols since we have heard of your Christ’. It is not enough that they simply renounce their idols, but pray that in these simple hearts may be born a positive faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that while their hearts are still tender and Hinduism has not such a hold upon them, they may be won for Christ. That the Lord is already working in their hearts is evident from this remark: ‘While reading our holy books or worshipping our gods we have no joy nor encouragement. Then how is it that we just long for our Bible class when we have our verses, stories and songs? We cannot understand our feelings about these things.’ We understand that the Holy Spirit is working in their hearts.

BIG BEGINNERS

Another work that Miss Hastie is affectionately remembered for is the Class she started and always took a keen interest in, which is taken by Kunkubai for older ones, who cannot read or write Marathi. This has been a big work behind the scenes, and many are deeply grateful for the foundation that was laid here; and some have done remarkably well. Three or four young women who have come to us recently expressed a desire to learn, and there are two or three big children from the families who have come to help on the farm; Kunkubai was so happy to enrol them. Please pray for them all.
'Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly...' 

Let us pray that God will continue His goodness to us and that His richest blessing may rest upon every department of the work. 

Let us also unite our prayers to God that He will richly bless Miss Fletcher’s ministry in Australia, opening doors of utterance to her, and calling out more of His children to help carry the responsibility and to stand with us and Him for mighty victory and the fulfilling of all His plans and purposes here. She is hoping it may be possible to go to New Zealand on Deputation work. Please pray about this. 

Let us pray for Misses Amstutz and Terry still in the Philippines. 

Shall we pray very specially for the work at Supa. Camping season is here. ‘The fields are white and ready... Pray ye therefore.’ 

We would also ask prayer for Vimal Dongre at Wilson College, Bombay, our ten girls at High School, and three taking nursing training; that they may be kept from the evil, and made meet for His use. 

Prayer is also requested for our Bethel families, including the new ones who have recently settled amongst us; especially for the young men who attend the various meetings and are becoming active, that they may have a clear, ringing testimony, and become pillars in the Church. 

Our women and girls scattered here and there in this land need your prayers in their various spheres. Oh that they might be channels of His rich blessing to those who still sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! 

Shall we call upon Him Who has said, ‘I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not’?  

Omitted from ANNUAL REPORT: 

Treasurer in America: 
MISS J. PATTERSON,  
P.O. Box 415,  

Treasurer in Australia:  
MR. H. P. SMITH,  
315 Collins St.,  
Melbourne.

Treasurer in New Zealand:  
MR. D. W. KAYE,  
43 Queen’s Drive,  
Musselburgh, Dunedin.

Treasurer in England:  
MRS. M. BARRATT,  
Chalfont, Carleton Ave.,  
Pontefract, Yorks.