Our Dear Friends and Prayer Helpers,

This month we have been reminded that the risen and exalted Lord is ‘He that openeth and no man shuteth . . . ’. On the 9th March, we celebrated the founding of this Mission 56 years ago, the ‘opening of the door’. It still stands open to welcome needy ones and to speed forth messengers of the glorious Gospel of His grace. The Lord’s Name be praised.

During the past few months many have entered through the doors into the different departments of the Mission. We have been glad to welcome a new carpenter of whom Miss Woodward writes,

‘A wood butcher! Have you ever heard of this before? A certain kind of carpenter often found in small villages in India, is said to “butcher” wood. Mukti has had this kind often. Now we are so grateful to have Benjamin Ramtake, a Christian, who is a real carpenter. He served Rev. A. I.-Garrison as a gardener rather than to live among Hindus and be a carpenter. We were in need of someone to help us at this time and as Mr. Garrison was sailing it fitted in very well for Benjamin to come to us.’

A steel letter file of four sections was raised from the stone floor of the office on bricks which were not even. Benjamin’s first task was to make a stand for this file case. I suggested a low frame with feet, to which he said, ‘No feet. I’ll make a frame on modern lines’. He did. It is neat, and surely has a modern appearance.

We trust that he will not only serve us well but that he will help to build for eternity as he meets with the people in this community.
The Lord by ways past-our understanding brings to Mukti young and old that they might hear His glorious message of Salvation. It is noon on a hot day. A tired looking man comes along carrying a child, while another girl of about 12 years is walking by his side looking very sad. They come in at Mukti gate. Someone asks 'what do you wish?' The man says, 'I want to give my little girl to the Mission. She is one year old. Her mother died six months ago, so I gave her to her grandmother, but she is cruel and gives her opium so that she will not have to give her much milk. I know that she will be loved here, so that is why I have brought her'. Father and sister feel very sorry to say goodbye to Indira who comes to join our Mukti family. She has needed much care and attention, and the cruel treatment which she had received made her very trying, but she is improving, for which we do praise the Lord.

Kalawati and Lilawati were brought to us by their father who told how his poor wife had had smallpox which left her blind and unable to care for the little girls. Kalawati aged six years kept screaming, 'Don't sell us; don't sell us'. They had to go into hospital for treatment of dreadful sores. The father and mother returned again to visit them; and were glad to know that they were so well and happy. They were sad little mites when they came; but now they sing and play with the others. We pray that they may soon learn to know the Lord Jesus and be used to win their loved ones to Him.

The other day while looking around the nursery compound His Words 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise' came to me. Sadguni aged three and a half years was playing away singing 'The Name of Jesus is so sweet'. A little farther on Anusaya, aged five years, was cleaning her plate while singing, 'King Jesus has come. He is my King'.

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Dear to the heart of the Shepherd,
Dear are the lambs of His fold;
Some from the pastures are straying,
Hungry and helpless and cold:
See, the Good Shepherd is seeking,
Seeking the lambs that are lost;
Bringing them in with rejoicing,
Saved at such infinite cost.

MRS. MARY B. WINGATE.
RESCUE HOME

Out in the darkness, shadowed by sin,
Souls are in bondage, souls we must win.
How can we win them? How show the way?
Love never faileth. Love is His way.

FLORA KIRKLAND.

Hernubai, an unfortunate Marathi widow, was brought to us about eight months ago. Now she has twin boys and appears to have settled into conditions here. She will most probably not be taken back by her relatives or into caste again. She has disgraced the family. Hernubai is attentive to the Gospel Message so I covet your prayers on her behalf. May the Lord show her she is a sinner, and that He is able to save her. Her two little boys, now three months old are so much alike it is almost impossible to tell who is who. Hernubai had put a piece of coloured string round the wrist of James the firstborn. (John the younger, had always been slightly less in weight from birth.) The string disappeared one day, so the mother in distress came to see if I could tell which was which. The only thing to do was to weigh them. One was 2 ozs. heavier than the other, so we decided that he must be James. The mother quickly got a piece of string and put it on James’ right wrist. May these two little boys grow up to love the Lord.

Another widow, Krishnabai, who has now been with us about ten years has not been baptized yet, but a few days ago I asked if she were saved ‘Yes! I know Jesus is my Saviour and I would like to be baptized,’ was her reply. Please pray for her. She cannot read or write so is dependent on what she hears about Christ.

Geetabai, another Marathi widow, followed the Lord in baptism a few years ago and as far as she has the light she walks in it. She is always ready to pray and give a word of testimony to what the Lord has done for her.

Pray for these Hindu widows and women who come into our Rescue Home. It gives us great joy to see them come out for Jesus. It is not easy for them, but the Lord is able. Praise Him!

E. MORRIS.

‘Love never faileth’. Love is pure gold;
Love is what Jesus came to unfold;
Make us more loving, Master we pray
Help us remember Love is Thy way.
Mukti has its open doors for those who need shelter and protection even in their old age.

Not very long ago we received a blind mother and her young daughter. Father worked in the Brethren Mission and died of T.B. Missionaries sent the blind mother to us as they could not take care of her. Saraswathibai is a good Christian woman. She is learning to read Braille and also how to make ropes, and she helps in the Sunday school. Her child, Awantika, is a good daughter to her mother. She cooks for her and takes her every morning and afternoon to the blind school. Awantika is a bright student in the Sharada Sadan. Most of our old women cannot see to read now. In the evening Awantika reads the Bible to them, and her mother explains the portion read. Then they all have a blessed time of prayer together. Saraswathibai has had hard experiences in life but she has learnt to put her trust in the Saviour for all her needs.

Harnabai Jadhav is another old and practically helpless woman who has been entrusted to us by the American Marathi Mission. She is a widow and having no children there was nobody to look after her. We need much prayer for such women who need more sympathy and love in their last days.

Bhimabai Harishchandra.

The Lord has recently given to us in the Hospital a ministry to former Mukti women. Kalyabai was sent from Poona where she had served faithfully for several years. She was not expected to live for very long; but she did seem to pick up and was able to sit about in the compound for several months. However, she passed away quite suddenly and peacefully, released from the body of suffering which had been hers for some years.

Now we have with us Geetabai whose husband went Home last year. She has no one to care for her so she is resting in Hospital until she regains strength. We ask prayer that she may be caused to look away from her own weakness to Him, and hear the Lord’s call to a ministry of intercession.

Geetabai, with praise on her lips, has now entered into Life. She had fought a good fight and witnessed a good confession of her faith in the Lord Jesus. The Funeral Service was simple but impressive and a fresh call to whole-hearted devotion to God.
ELIM SADAN

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay.
The hope no disappointments tire.
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

A.C.

A letter came from a schoolmaster in a distant state asking if we would take his two little girls into our school since their mother had died. He wanted them to study and to be cared for and trained. Very soon Shalini and Saraswati joined our Elim-Sadan family. They are doing nicely at school and write assuring their father that they are very happy and he must not worry about them.

Next comes word from a missionary that a Bible-woman is on her way to us with a young girl who has never been to school and who needs protection, since her humble home is in a Hindu community and her father and mother, both illiterate, have just become Christians. Soni is welcomed into our midst. She has applied herself to her studies and after only a few months in Kunkubai's class has been promoted to the 2nd Standard in the Sharada Sadan School.

Then we were asked to take two young girls who have had a very sad childhood and now that their parents have separated are left destitute. Shanti and Sarojini seem older than their years. We long that they may become messengers of reconciliation in the days to come. What wonderful opportunities we have of presenting His Truth to these young girls and seeking to make them disciples of our Lord Jesus!

Florence Penny.

During the past three months seven women, including two blind women; seven girls, including one T.B., case who has gone to our sanatorium, and six children have come to us, and we are so glad to be able to receive them and to have such a wonderful Saviour to introduce them to.

Several have left us, some for further training, some for work, and some as brides; whilst two older women, and one baby, have passed through the gates into the City.

Subhadra Pandit has come for holiday from Wai, and Rhoda Dongre from Nasik, where they are taking nursing training. Prayer is being answered for them and both are making splendid progress. We are so glad to see them again, and to have the good reports concerning them.
OPENED HEAVENS AND OPENED HEARTS

Just before Easter a real work of the Spirit began amongst the girls in Anandi and Elim Sadans, for which we praise Him. Hallelujah! He has given repentance and forgiveness of sins. The girls gather together for prayer and praise of their own accord and several times prayed far into the night. They are seeking to glorify God in their work. And they have a burden of prayer for their unsaved people. Our hearts rejoice in God our Saviour and we know that 'He who hath begun a good work will perform it....'

Florence Penny.

AN OPEN DOOR AND OPENED EYES

'Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it.' These were the words which the Lord gave us as we waited upon Him concerning going to Supa once more. Medical work was heavy and through it there were many opportunities of proclaiming the Gospel Message. While the women went out daily by bullock tonga to villages within a radius of ten miles, I was kept busy at the bungalow and in paying visits in Supa itself. It is 2.0 p.m., on a hot day. All is quiet in the bungalow. It is a time of preparation for the evening meeting. Someone is walking nearby. A stranger appears. We ask, 'Do you want something?' He says, 'My little boy's eyes are very bad. Would you kindly give us medicine for him' 'Let us see the child.' Oh, what eyes! The lids are very swollen. 'What have you done?' 'We made a paste of a sticky milkweed and put it on so that the eyes would open, but he doesn't open them.' Mother and father look very anxious and fearful. The eyeballs are quite hidden. The eyes are bathed, drops put in and soaks applied, while they are asked to stay on the verandah until evening. We go inside and bring this child definitely before the Lord in prayer. The Word He gives is, 'A little child shall lead them.' We pray that this may be the means of salvation to this family. They hear the Gospel in song and word, but the father seems restless and doubtful. For three days they come, but although there is improvement the eyes are still closed. However, the Lord gives peace concerning the little one. Then for three days they do not appear, and we feel anxious, but the Lord reminds us of His word. On Monday, again they are at the door. 'How are the baby's eyes? Why didn't you come again?' we ask anxiously.
Ragunath, the father says, 'Oh! I had to go to attend to my orchard, and while I was away my wife thought, as the swelling was down the eyes would soon be better; and she couldn't bear to hear him cry when he had the medicine put in; so she didn't come.' 'Let us see the eyes.' 'Yes, they are improving, but they need a lot of medicine yet.' Ragunath insists that they must go to their village six miles away, so he has brought bottles for the medicine. He says, 'People have told me lots of things to do and how to appease the gods; but I am trusting that you, through your God, will heal my boy. Please sell me a book about your Jesus.' He goes away happily with a Gospel portion and a picture for the baby saying, 'I will return on Wednesday and let you know how his eyes are.' Wednesday afternoon Ragunath enters smiling. He says, 'Yesterday evening at 7.0 p.m., my little boy opened his eyes. He can see. Your God answers prayer! I am going to study what it says about Him in that little book.' Pray that His eyes may be opened to behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

Gulabrao visited occasionally and told how he loved to read the Word of God each day, and how he hoped that soon the way would be open for him to follow the Lord in baptism.

Sunday schools were well attended and some men and boys came to the evening meetings when we studied the Apostles Creed and the Lord's last message fulfilled through the early Church. Much ground has been broken up. The Seed has been sown. Continue to pray for harvest.

J. CALLAN.

We do praise God for bringing us an evangelist, and his wife, who has also had Bible training and experience in the Lord's service. They came a few days ago and we ask your prayers for them, and hope to be able to tell you more about them and their work later.

Theirs is a big sphere of service and ministry. The Christian men who have come to help on the land, with their families, and the builders, form a big community. There are meetings with the young men, with the women, and with the children. Also older people to be visited in their homes; as well as the people in the villages round about. Mr. Damle is hoping to get out to Supa from time to time to follow up the work done there during the camping season.
We have read that 'Prayer is an unlocking act'; the key as it were that opens the door; and we remember that our Lord commands us to knock and it shall be opened unto us.

Shall we continue to knock, like the importunate friend, on behalf of Miss Fletcher in her Deputation Work. We praise God for all He is doing and the new friends He is raising up. Word has come of the Home Call of our dear friend Mrs. Tunley, in her 98th year. For many years she grew and sold flowers and sent the proceeds to us here, and helped us by her prayers.

Please join with us in praise to God for answered prayer for Misses Amstutz and Terry. The 'door has opened'. How we rejoiced when word came that they were released and returning to America! We want them here, of course, but we know that they will need rest and nourishment, and for our Lord to open up the way for them when His time comes. Please continue in prayer with thanksgiving, for them.

We rejoice to tell that Vimal Dongre has passed her Junior B.A., and we praise God for all His help and the way He is answering prayer for her. We know you will continue to remember her before the Throne of Grace during this last year at College. And also please continue in prayer for our other girls at High School and in Training.

Let us pray for all who enter our doors: tiny tots and older ones; for those who come for help, and for those who come to help. And for all who leave us for other parts of this land: that in all things our Lord may be glorified and all His purposes fulfilled.

We do praise our God for all those who have helped to keep the doors at Mukti open. And we thank Him for all His great goodness to us; including four cases of good things, which arrived safely, during the Easter holidays, from our friends in Australia.

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