Every-day work and thoughts and routines were put in the background during Passion Week, as Mukti turned its thoughts toward the solemnity of the Crucifixion and the joy of the Resurrection. The sunrise service on a nearby hill-top consummated for those baptized the previous day in Mukti the symbol of newness of life in Christ.

While we have not the space to print the stories of all twenty who were baptized, we would share with you the stories of some as written by those who know them best.

From the Children

'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.'

Five little girls stood in the front row, their pink jackets and long, beige skirts visible through the green ferns at the baptismal scene. They were only thirteen years old, but on their faces was a look of expectancy, for they were in a few moments to go through the waters of baptism. A hush had fallen on the other Fruit Garden children, for these, their friends, were standing there as a testimony to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. My heart overflowed with joy, for had not these children come from Hindu homes as unwanted baby girls and motherless children?

Before the service I had told them not to be afraid as they went under the water. Afterwards they came to me and said, 'Moushie, we were not afraid, were we?' No, indeed, a sweet smile broke over each face as it came up out of the water.

The following day was Easter Sunday, and solemn were their faces and hushed their hearts as, dressed all in white, they were received into church membership and partook of their first Holy Communion.—GLADYS FLETCHER
From Redeemed Womanhood

In contrast to the children were the two women from Krupa Sadan, our rescue home. Parawatibai, whose picture appears on page 2, was a Hindu girl of about eighteen years when she was brought into our rescue home a year and a half ago by her father. She had been married to a Hindu man while she was still a baby, and at the age of about twelve years was sent to live with him. The husband had already taken another wife into the home. After a few years the first wife put poison in the husband’s food and he died. Both wives then went to their own homes. Parawatibai’s father was sad about this, as it was against his religion to have his daughter married again. Since it meant he had to keep her, he bought some land and had her work on it. After some months had passed, however, the girl disgraced the family, and the father brought his daughter to Mukti. From then on he wanted nothing to do with her.

Parawatibai was an ignorant girl who had never been to school and had never had the opportunity to learn. She was anxious to learn how to read and write, and was therefore sent every day to our literacy class, where she is doing very well. On January 2nd of this year she accepted Christ as her Saviour, and is happy in her newfound joy. Pray for her, that she might be a testimony to the other women with whom she lives. Truly there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repenteth.

Yamanabai was brought up in a Hindu home where she was taught to worship the stone gods. At the age of seven years she was married to a Hindu boy, and now does not remember much about the wedding ceremony. When she was twelve years old she was sent to live in her husband’s home. After a few years her husband married another girl, and, as Yamanabai did not have any children, he treated her very cruelly.

During these years of her married life, her brother had become a Christian, and she sent word to him that she was coming to see him. She then plucked up enough courage to tell her husband that she was going to her brother.

The brother was happy for Yamanabai to get away from her cruel husband, but thought it not wise to have her stay in his home. He taught her about the Lord Jesus and then asked her if she would not like to come to the Ramabai Mukti Mission. She came ten months ago and has found Christ as her Saviour. Will you find a place for her also in your prayers?—ELIZABETH MORRIS
From the Teen-Agers

With the freshness of young girlhood four teen-agers from Anand Sadan stood among those to be baptized. One had been rescued from a holy city of the Hindus, two had been unwanted by their mothers, while the fourth had been reluctantly given up by a Brahman widow who was forced by her family to forsake the child. After the baptism, as they stood clothed in white and holding God's Word in their hands, we thanked God for gathering in His own mysterious way these Indian jewels for His glory.—Carol Terry

From Young Womanhood

When Avardi stepped into the waters of baptism, thoughts went back twenty years when it was the Sunday before Christmas. A tiny unwanted baby was found in the prickly-pear thorn bush at the railway station. The missionary lovingly and tenderly removed the cruel thorns, with the prayer that this child might grow up to be a vessel unto honour for His glory. She was given a place with the other little Buds to be cared for, loved, and brought up for His glory. The Lord permitted this little life to grow, and she is now a girl of twenty. For some time she was not interested in the things of the Lord, but a year ago the Lord came into her heart and changed her life.

With her another young woman followed the Lord in baptism. She has been with us since she was two months old. Although she was unwanted by her family, she was wanted by our precious Lord. He won her heart and saved her soul. Pray for both of these precious trophies of His grace.—Anne Siemens

From the Christian Families

It is not often a boy goes through the waters of baptism in Mukti, but this Easter season witnessed a young lad from our Bethel families standing with those to be baptized. He has been attending our outside Sunday School conducted by the Mukti Bible teachers and, as a student in our school, attends the daily Scripture classes there. While attending the special class for candidates for baptism, the Lord spoke to him and he was saved. We praise God for bringing this lad into His fold. Pray that he may be a witness in his nominally Christian home. There are a few more boys who are on our hearts. We value your prayers that they, too, might be brought into His fold.—L. N. Chowdhari
From the Boarders

One of the greatest joys of Easter time is watching these little lives follow their beloved Lord Jesus in baptism. It was a special joy to me to watch five of our girls from the boarding compound, Elim Sadan, being baptized. They are children who have been with us several years. They are good in their school work, obedient at home, yet each had seen her need as a sinner, and as we prayed together each had thanked the Lord Jesus for becoming her Saviour. May I present their names to you, so that you may remember them in prayer?

There is Nilini, just ten years old, who was the youngest of the group, Supraba who is a very bright child, Rachel who is a very sweet girl but who has very, very poor eyesight, Vishranti who was given by Hindu parents as a gift to the living God and who is now the ward of a missionary, and then Ruth who is in her final year of school at Mukti. Will you join with Samuel in saying, 'Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you' (1 Sam. 12:23).

—Elizabeth Stone

FOR OUR CHILDREN

Father, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying,
We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril,
From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand, pluck them.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,
From the sting of faithless sadness,
Holy Father, save our children.

Through life's troubled waters steer them,
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,
Father, Father, be Thou near them.
Read the language of our longing,
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,
Holy Father, for our children.

And wherever they may bide,
Lead them Home at eventide.

—Amy Carmichael
A SOUL-WINNING CHALLENGE

'I will make you fishers of men.'

This promise is given to those who follow the Lord, and during Passion Week Mukti had a visit from one of His followers who is really a fisher of men. Mr. Samuel, who appears at the right in the baptismal picture, is secretary for the ‘One by One Band,’ and is a man of prayer and a soul winner. He is well grounded in the Word of God. As a child of eight years he joined the ‘Scripture Union,’ a worldwide Bible reading band. He has been a member now for over sixty years. No wonder that he knows his Bible well and that he gives his messages with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mukti received a great blessing during the week he was here. The meetings were well planned and prayed for before his arrival. He spoke to the school children during the morning hours for the first three days, and the girls and boys, Christian as well as Hindu, listened well to his heart searching messages illustrated by simple stories. In the evening hours he spoke to our outside men and workers, his theme being, ‘No man can enter heaven without being born again.’ His deep knowledge of the Word and his experience in winning souls brought great blessing. The third night he made an appeal to those who wished to stay after the meeting and accept Christ as personal Saviour. Almost all stayed and prayed, some receiving Him into their hearts for the first time and others rededicating their lives to the One who died for them.

On Good Friday Mr. Samuel lifted the cross that everyone could see the Crucified One who had died that those present might have life. He did not leave us there at the foot of the cross, however, but on Easter morning showed us our victorious, risen Lord. As the Word was expounded, we felt the presence of the Lord, and said with the disciples at Emmaus, ‘Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?’ Then followed the Lord’s Supper, when we looked unto Him as the risen Lord and coming King.

Mr. Samuel’s last message to Mukti was to live a victorious life that shows a risen Christ. To those who follow Him is the promise, ‘I will make you fishers of men.’ To follow Him is to become a fisher of men.

—L. N. CHOWDHARI
COMMENCEMENT

As the babies come to our door from all parts of India, in all sorts of conditions and with all kinds of different backgrounds, each one is loved, each one is cared for, each one is prayed for before the throne. Some are a joy when they reach young womanhood, while some seem to carry throughout their growing-up process their unfortunate inheritance.

To those who have cared for someone from infancy, to those who have shared the joys and sorrows of such a one, to those who have nursed such a one through illness and who have longed over that soul in prayer, to those will come some understanding of what a joy it was to see two of our girls grow into a lovely womanhood consecrated completely unto the Lord.

As some of the missionaries journeyed to Poona and witnessed the Commencement Exercises of these two girls, hearts overwhelmed with thanksgiving unto Him who entrusted these lives to Mukti for His glory. The joy their faces radiated and the sweet humility with which they knelt before the Pastor, their heads covered with their saris, as he asked God’s blessing on their lives and ministry, revealed God’s answer to the faithful prayers of His people in many lands. It was in a God that could take unwanted scraps of humanity and make of them jewels for His crown that we rejoiced that day.

We share with you the testimonies of these two girls who have come back to Mukti to serve our Lord as Bible women.—C.T.

The Testimony of Dorcas

During my Bible training course of three years in Poona I experienced the presence and nearness of our Lord in a greater degree than ever before in my life. I felt that there was no one like our Lord, so lovely and so sweet as He.
In 1948 I was very ill and felt like giving up my service for Him. I was very miserable and could not overcome this feeling, but the Lord had a purpose in it all. I was taken to the hospital for an operation and was relieved of my pain. When I was quiet and alone there, I opened my heart to the Lord in a new way. He talked with me, and I spent much time alone with Him there. He made me feel how very close His presence was. Then my heart was at peace and I determined never to leave Him nor forsake Him. I reconsecrated my life entirely for His service.

On the day of my graduation, I was blessed with this verse, ‘They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.’ I saw clearly the importance of God’s call in these words. As I walk in the path of His service, I want to keep this verse always in my heart. I am not doing His work because people tell me, but I am doing it entirely for the love of Him and for the experience I have had of His deep and great love.

The Testimony of Suwerna

I came to know the deep experience of salvation through studying God’s Word. It was then I knew the peace of our Lord in my heart. I began to feel burdened for those who have not yet received the salvation that is from the Lord, and my longing to tell them of His salvation became intense. When I was discouraged and disappointed in the lack of response of people to the Gospel, I took comfort in the Word of God. I know that the Lord will be with me and His presence will continue to help me as I do His work and endeavor to bring souls to Christ.

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