Lead them in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

PRAYER BELL

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THROUGH ANOTHER HOT SEASON

It is always necessary for a few of the missionaries to stay in Mukti during the hot season months of April and May, as this is holiday time for Indian workers as well as for missionaries. This means that extra duties are carried, for which both physical and spiritual strength needs to be claimed moment by moment in order that all may be done in a way which will bring praise to the Master.

Even before the heat increases we begin to watch the water in the wells and wonder how long it will last. This year one of the drinking wells gave out quite early, but into the other one came just sufficient quantity for daily needs. During these weeks as the heat increases it is impossible to use water for anything but essential needs and after having spent many years here, we saw plants die and things all around look more barren this year, than we had ever seen it.

The deputy collector came for a first visit during that time and expressed surprise that we had no gardens or flowers to show him. He did not seem to realize how much we too were longing for the rains to come and transform the barren, dry place into a garden again, for we had not had water in the wells to water the gardens.

Then at last the showers came. How quickly the thirsty earth responds to even the first small shower, and after three heavy rainfalls green shoots sprang forth. Seed was sown and we once more realized the marvel of the Creator’s care and planning.

The coming of the showers also put an end to the tedious work of filling water from the well across the road, which was especially hard for the children and blind, who had to make many trips to and fro, carrying small buckets between them, or with vessels on their heads.

Another hot season is over. Industrial work and the schools are in full swing. The evangelistic bands are going to the villages and the village Sunday schools are starting again, while the daily domestic and medical work and other branches continue as always whether there are holidays or not.

Starting again with new vigour, what is all this going to mean in God’s plan for Mukti? What is to be our individual contribution? May we always be found ready to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit that He may be able to use us as He chooses.

—J. ISABEL CRADDOCK
CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

'Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest' (Joshua 1:9). These words, which are part of the commission given to Joshua, came to us in a personal way when we offered ourselves to the Lord for service in India. As we look back over the past several months, we rejoice in the faithfulness of our God. We realize that He Who had called us had gone before and made provision for our every need.

February 27th we sailed from New York aboard the S.S. Queen Mary. The weeks on board ship proved to be a time of real spiritual blessing and fellowship with other missionaries. Although we encountered sickness during the journey, we were conscious of the Lord’s presence and knew that ‘all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose’.

We shall never forget our first evening in India. As we passed through the railroad station, a teen-aged mother with babe in arms followed us, begging for money and food. How our hearts were burdened as we longed to tell her of our Blessed Hope in the One Who said, ‘I am the bread of life.’ We thanked God anew for the ministry of the Ramabai Mukti Mission where many young mothers come for refuge and find new hope and purpose in their lives through the Lord Jesus Christ and His redemption. We thanked Him too, that Mukti is a home where babies and little children are lovingly cared for and shown the love of Jesus by example and teaching.

It was an exciting day when we had our first glimpse of Mukti. Hundreds of girls and women with colourful ‘sarís’ and happy faces were waiting at the welcome gate. As we stepped from the station wagon a welcome song filled the air and loving hands presented garlands of flowers. Thoughtful missionaries had made every provision for our comfort in the remodelled bungalow, and we were made to feel ‘at home’ in this land of our adoption.

Our task at hand—that of learning the language—is all-important, and we are trusting our Lord to give the needed wisdom and grace so that we might, in a tongue which the people can understand, tell the Good News of salvation.

—Howard and Corene McMillen
LOSING HERSELF TO SERVE HIM IN MUKTI

'For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be a cast away' (Luke 9:25).

I had a great desire to attend college as soon as I was through with my secondary examination, but God's plan was different. I stayed at home for a year and I began to think, 'How can I help Mukti?' I experienced that if I yielded myself to Him, He would bless me richly, for I realized that, though I get all the training physically and mentally, but if I lose the spiritual, 'it profiteth me nothing'.

First, I got a chance to go to Nasrapur Spiritual Life Conference. I was richly blessed as the speaker was delivering the message on a verse—Luke 9:25. I was impressed and the verse melted my heart. At that moment I decided to do something for Jesus.

I thank God that He has given me so many opportunities to serve Him. I had a very good chance to study in the Bible class here. Daily I learned many new things which I had never thought of before. I also had opportunities to go to surrounding villages. At first when I saw the children, I thought, 'The children will never listen to me'. But I thank God for the courage He gave me to stand the situation. I taught the children the Wordless Book object lesson, and they found it very interesting. They learned the verses by heart and every time they stood up and repeated them with joy.

I helped in Kindergarten School and learned many things from the children.

Now I have a chance to go to college, but it is my humble request to the friends to remember me in their prayers, that I may be faithful to Him and be used of Him in the midst of the Hindu friends.

After I finish my course, if it is His will, I will serve Him in Mukti. I appreciate and thank all the friends for all their earnest prayers and their help to me.

Yours in Him,

______ —ROHINI

This is Rohini's testimony in her own words and on the right is her picture taken the day she left for Wilson College, Bombay.
With a shy smile she looked at the sandals in her hand. 'Put them on, Anandi."

Quietly slipping on her first pair of sandals, Anandi cautiously took a step. Soon the shining faces of gratitude were lifted as towels, soap dishes, combs, clothing and bright saris tumbled into three pairs of open arms. Anandi, Indira and Mary were overwhelmed with such abundance—enough to fill one suitcase for each girl.

Then dawned Monday—the day to report for Teachers’ Training and for the return of the high school students. There was a quietness in the teen-agers’ home. A group of girls, ready to leave, paused to dedicate themselves anew to Him. Champa, who dreams of medicine, prayed, 'Father, cause us to shine for Thee, that everyone who sees us will know that we belong to Thee and will be drawn to Thee. Let there be no doubt in the mind of anyone concerning the God we serve. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.'

Soon the girls were standing at the Mukti Gate waving farewell.

Once cast off by parent and friend, they stand today loved and trained because friends around the world care enough for a little brown baby to sacrifice for her. But the task is not complete. These girls need protective prayer as they learn to stand alone in their Lord. Oh that they might be so fitted for service in India that others will be made hungry for the Lord Jesus through their testimony. —RUTH BOLLMAN
NEW THINGS IN BETHLEHEM

A heavy shower was falling from heaven when it was time for the bell to ring at 4.30, announcing the house warming and dedication service of the new Bethlehem home for our older teen-age working girls. The eagerly looked for rain however did not stop the bell from ringing, and as we came, peering from underneath dripping umbrellas, we saw along the verandah wall of the attractive new compound, a beautiful picture of red and green. The girls had made little mud vases and in them red bougainvilleas and hibiscus were interspersed with sprays of green.

The girls smiled eagerly from between the flowers and giggled a little nervously with adolescent embarrassment as they greeted us and showed us into their new rooms. The doors and window sills had been painted a cool, pleasant turquoise shade. On the walls the girls had placed pictures, making the rooms look homey. Their bright sleeping mats were neatly strung across a rod and beneath them the trunks and boxes were placed in a neat row.

Two of the Bethlehem girls, Shakuntala Kasote and Krupa Makasare have been married within the last month, so the girls find their rooms spacious and comfortable.

The rain had stopped now and we sat on the verandah with the girls and sang, ‘A prayer on entering a new house’. The pastor read a portion from Matthew 7:7–12 ‘For every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened’. We had asked for a new home and the God had so graciously answered prayer for our girls. Then after reading verses 24 to 27 from the same chapter, he reminded those who were to inhabit this new home, really to build on the Rock Christ Jesus, and to dedicate their life and speech to His glory.

As the showers fell from heaven upon that new home, we prayed that the showers of God’s blessing might really fall upon these whose home it had become, right from the very beginning. Pray with us that in their life in this new home, the Lord will do new things in their hearts and lives.

—Lillian Doerksen
A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

To give the key of reading into the hands of an ignorant woman and to watch her mind open up is a thrill indeed, and to use that opened mind aright as prepared ground for the seed of God's Word is beyond description.

Having sought to share in carrying the burden with Miss Dongre in prayer, the difficulties and trials were well known to me as I took up the literacy work upon returning to Mukti. The Lord has met in this, as the work has been laid at His pierced feet, and has also led us out to the women in their homes. Bhimabai accompanied me on the first visit.

To begin with there was the pandit's wife. As we talked and listened to her, we longed that she might really know our wonderful Saviour Who alone can give her peace of heart. She seemed very eager to learn to read and write and told of four others who could form a class.

Around the houses we roamed, being greeted here and there by old friends, and enjoying their happy talk. At the basket weavers' place the women greeted us as old friends but the idea of reading was at first most amusing to them. However they agreed it was a good thing and consented to spend time each afternoon with one of our teachers.

A little boy from the potters' compound said, 'Moushie, come and call my mother to the class so that she can learn to read and write.'

His mother was shy at first, but when she realized that he was keen for her to learn, she combed her hair and came along with him. Over and over again we looked at the pictures and letters. He sat nearby eager to prompt, but when he saw that she really recognized the first four letters, his joy knew no bounds. Then her difficulty was, 'There will be two days before your coming again. How will I remember?'

The son was ready, 'I will write them on my slate and teach you,' he joyfully declared.

She looked up and said, 'My boy is clever. He is reading the fourth book now.'

When the little fellow replied, 'Mother, you too are clever. You will soon learn to read,' the thought came to us, 'a little child shall lead them'.

They went off happily together, proud of each other and proud of the new knowledge acquired.

— Janet Callan
FAMILY NEWS

We are glad to welcome Miss Janet Callan back after being away for a year acting as Supervisor of the Nurses' Training School at St Margaret's Hospital in Poona.

We praise God for helping Miss Lillian Doerksen to pass her second year language examination successfully.

The Ramabai Mukti Mission is an international, undenominational Mission of evangelical faith, with representatives in the home countries as follows:

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