Receiving A Little One in His Name
Rescued, she now ministers unto others

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RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
ENFOLDED FOR HIS GLORY

'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.' Just preceding this promise, Jesus grants us a peep into the treasured value of a child to the heavenly Father. Could it be that the main weight of the verse concerning answered prayer bears relation to children? We cannot tell, but we can tell of many prayers answered for children gathered in this Mukti fold. Let us share some of these with you. Often our burdens are borne by warriors who have prayed, not knowing the exact needs of the moment. It is for these that we write.

One day a young widow asked her mother, 'Mother, while I go to the missionary to seek help, will you care for my four older children? I will bring aid.' The grandmother agreed. Soon after this a circus came to the village. In that circus there was an evil-minded man seeking for defenseless children for the shows. The grandmother gave Ratan and her brother and sisters to the circus, which soon moved on. All trace was lost. Because people in India and other lands were praying for the lost lambs of this land, those children were freed. Today Ratan is in Mukti and is preparing for her final grammar school examination.

Evening had come. The girls were sleeping. Quietly a young girl slipped off to my room. Seriously and humbly she poured out her heart. 'Auntie, last evening while others slept, my Lord spoke with me. He told me that He had brought me here that I might be trained for His service. I want to study and study that I might be the best possible servant. Temptations often come, but I want Him to be the victor.' On and on she told of the preciousness of her Lord to her. Are you still praying for these young ones that were lost and now are found? Pray, pray and pray on for this one. Her background and heritage will always be a hindrance to her.

Though much of our life is very routine, there are some special times when excitement abounds. One day in November, two very excited girls tumbled into my room. They had just returned from a youth conference in a rather distant city. Words poured out in jumbled fashion as they drew pictures of the train journey, the new food, the new friends, the meetings and the new hospital. Quietness followed the rush of words. Then Kalawati looked up and in awe said, 'It has been a real spiritual blessing that we have shared.' Mohini said, 'Yes, and so many have helped us that we might do this.'
Some of the girls in the Mukti fold have yet to find their delight in the Shepherd of Mukti, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Pray that not one may dwell outside of Him. Pray and rejoice with us.

—Ruth Bollman

LOVE STRONGER THAN SUPERSTITION

It was night-time when two men arrived at the Mukti gate. They had trudged many weary miles past dusty villages and through two rivers, carrying a little bundle. It was tied up in the end of one man’s loincloth which was wound loosely around his body. By the cry that came from the little bundle, we knew it was a little girl for us, but we wondered why the men had come to bring her.

Some fathers are fond of their baby girls in India, and why was this father giving up this pretty little one? The mother had died two days before, they told us, but we wondered if that was the true reason. Were there not relatives to look after her? The baby was crying most pitifully. The men had tried to get milk for her along the way when they could, but she sounded very hungry.

At that time fever and diarrhoea were keeping every baby-nurse in the hospital busy, and so the missionary herself took the little one into her room to care for her. This proved to be a real blessing. The crying, she found, was not just the expression of a temporary need, but the outcry of a body racked by pains of dysentery, from which the mother, too, had died. The missionary soon discovered that there was more than that too. The harassed cries at night were the ravished longings of the body for opium, which had been administered to her before she was brought here. Another discovery was soon made that was probably the real reason for her being brought here. Heathenism is always associated with superstition. A child born with a tooth in its mouth is immediately unwelcome, for it is feared that she was born with an evil spirit, which will bring trouble. If a member of the family dies, this one is believed to have eaten up that person. Little Naomi, as we called her, had been born with two teeth, and when the mother died shortly after her birth, they wanted to get rid of her before she brought them more tragedy.

The men did not stay, nor did they tell us of the two teeth, for even among Christians sometimes, these superstitions have a powerful hold.

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Sometimes, when faced with discouragement and problems, God sends encouragement through a song or the visit of a friend. Sometimes He sends it through a book or letter. Encouragement and blessing came to us at such a time when an old report came to our attention telling of God’s faithfulness. It was written by Ramabai and her daughter Manorama-bai in March 1915, and we were struck with the similarity of their problems. In many ways it could have been the actual report of the past months. We were so encouraged by their triumphant faith, that we would like to share it with you. We too, praise Him for the pressure that presses us close to His bosom and makes us realize His peace and power.

Dear Friends,—Another year has passed away. Our Loving Father has made it full of blessing for us. There have been many troubles and trials, but these have made us appreciate all the more the countless blessings which the Lord has sent. I praise and thank God daily for His goodness to us. It makes me feel very deeply how unworthy I am and how good the Lord is to me and mine. He gives us joy and peace—not as the world giveth—but His Own peace—which none can take from us, although the atmosphere all around the world is full of war and rumours of war. Our little world here is not free from these, but ‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us’, and I praise Him for His loving care and protection.

Many things have happened during the past year; they are too numerous to relate. The year began with many of the members of the institution being discontented because my whole attention was not concentrated upon them and because I could not pay them very high salaries. This was not something strange. The time seems to be especially one of discontent and strikes all over the world. Some of our trusted people suddenly became so restless and discontented that nothing would please them. They saw everything through the darkest glasses. They set up a rebellion and it was taken up by others until one did not know where things were going to stop; but one realized what the Psalmist felt and said long ago, ‘God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble.’

Things seemed to go wrong on all sides. Some trusted friends began to question the methods and motives of the work. Mistrust and misunderstanding were the natural result, but the Spirit of God whispered in one’s ear words of comfort and encouragement. He was heard to say ‘In quietness and
confident shall be your strength’. This proved to be true, as God’s Word always is—He never fails.

These and scores of other trials and difficulties of a different nature came on as a great flood, but now they have all passed away. Our God has not failed us. I praise His holy name and thank Him for His loving kindness. Peace is not quite restored, but one becomes so accustomed to existing conditions that one learns how to go about quietly and keep happily busy in the God-given work, taking no notice of the troublesome spirits which keep people continually grumbling.

There is a happy and bright side to every trial and trouble. God gives relief and strength and joy. His grace is sufficient for me and I am content to bear the trials He sends knowing that He makes no mistakes.

Our school work is going on well. Some of our pupils are developing into very fine, useful women. Their help in educational and other work is much appreciated. Many people are asking for competent school-teachers. Even the most ignorant among the village people wish to have their children taught reading and writing. They feel the need of education as never before, and in towns and cities the desire for education is still keener. It is therefore very necessary that our girls should have a good education and be trained as teachers as far as possible. There is a great demand for Christian women-workers if we can meet it. There are many openings on all sides. All our attention must be given to this, and all our efforts directed towards training our girls to meet the demand.

I thank you all most gratefully for your continued support, and for your prayers in our behalf. May I have grace from God to be faithful to Him and to you. May the Lord bless you and reward you for your kindness to us all.

Believe me, dear friends,

Very gratefully yours,

Ramabai

Manoramabai, in the same report, remarking on her mother’s letter says,

‘My mother has told you in her report about our experiences of the past year. As we look back over the months, that have gone by since our last reports were written, we realize more than ever that both sunshine and shadow are used of God to perfect His children in the ways of holiness. If there were no sunshine there would be no shadows, and it is true
that both are needed for the making of strong characters. Again what is true of the individual is true of the work as a whole. We realize that sunshine and shadow, calm and storm, are part of God’s plan for it, and we know that He knows best, and we praise Him for His leading and the strength and wisdom that He has given along the way.’

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After treatment and loving care through busy days and sleepless nights, the missionary was able to place little Naomi with her new baby sisters in the hospital baby room. The tireless, loving devotion gradually transformed the little body, trembling with craving and pain, into a bright, happy baby. Seeing this, all were convinced that love is stronger than any superstition. Even some, who had harboured secret fears, understood that ‘perfect love casteth out all fear’. She was rejected by her loved ones, because her life to them foretold evil. We feel that she was allowed to come here in order that she might grow up to know and love our Saviour and bring, not evil, but blessing and life to many others. May we ask you to join us in this our prayer for her.

—LILLIAN DOERKSEN

GOD’S WORD HIDDEN IN THEIR HEARTS

‘This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night . . . and then thou shalt have good success.’ So spake Joshua, who was about to lead the people of Israel into Canaan to battle against a strong foe.

That word still comes ringing down through the centuries. We are daily fighting a spiritual battle and need to turn to the Word of God for instruction and help in this warfare.

The twenty-five teen-agers of the House of the Psalms, did not possess a Bible of their own. The twelve Bibles belonging to the whole compound had to be shared among the fifty-four girls—big and small. An S.O.S. to New Zealand brought a gift of money and I was able to purchase thirty Bibles. The girls were delighted at the sight of these Bibles. ‘You must learn portions of God’s Word and so earn them,’ I told them. Eagerly, they all commenced. They learned the books of the Bible, the Ten Commandments, Isaiah 55, 1 Cor. 13, Romans 8, and the Apostles’ Creed. Such a learning that went on; such hearing of verses! All went well until they came to
Romans 8. Some found it very difficult and especially Anandi, who is not very bright in school. One day she burst into tears as she struggled with the passage. The night before the distribution of the Bibles, we sat together by the light of the lantern in the compound, hearing the last few girls say their verses. The night was hot and breathless, but all were terribly interested to see if Anandi could make it. As she finished the last verse, they all clapped their hands with joy. If you could only have seen her beaming face!

Saturday, at 6:15, was the great moment. The missionaries and some of the teachers gathered with us. We sang praises, Bhimabai prayed, the girls recited Isaiah 55 and Miss Craddock gave out the Bibles and spoke a few words of exhortation. Two of the girls responded very beautifully, thanking New Zealand for such a precious gift.

Suprabha said, 'I have always longed to have a Bible of my own. How happy I am today! Girls, if we read our Bibles every morning, the troubles of the day can be more easily met. Let us learn more of it. The Bible will wear out or may get torn or even be taken away from us, but nobody can take away from our minds that which we have learnt by heart. 'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'

—GLADYS FLETCHER

FAMILY NEWS

We rejoice and are glad to share with you the good news that Miss Elda Amstutz has arrived at Mukti. Her coming at this time to help carry the added responsibilities when many of the missionaries must go away for the hot season proves again how faithfully God plans all our 'comings and goings'.

Another 'joy' that we would like to share with you is the new addition to our missionary family, Rebecca Jane McMillen. Jewel is thrilled with her new sister, and the 'big-sister' attitude which she displayed when she first saw her was interesting and amusing. 'Don't cry little baby,' she said, 'I'm here.' Please continue to pray for the McMillens and the girls while they continue their language study at Mahableshwar for three more months.

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

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